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MAZADA TOURS

Rabin says Islamic fanaticism is Israel's greatest enemy

SARAH HONIG

PRIME Minister Yitzhak Rabin last night singled out Islamic fanaticism as "Israel's greatest, if not its single enemy, an enemy with whom we must do battle uncompromisingly."

Rabin stressed, however, that he opposes suggestions that he slow down the peace process.

Rabin was addressing a session of Labor's Central Committee at Beit Berl, which was devoted to the state budget.

He argued that the economic situation is "far better than all the dry-babies would have us believe," and lashed out at the kibbutz movement, whose representative, MK Haggai Merom, has been severely critical of Shimon Sheves, director-general of the Prime Minister's Office.

Extremist Moslems, Rabin contended, "must not be allowed to stop the peace process. That is

their aim, and it would be their greatest victory if they felt they are succeeding in putting a halt to the process. That would encourage them all the more to increase their terrorist operations, because it would be apparent to them that their terror is achieving its aims.

"Israel must do uncompromising battle with these Moslem extremists," he continued. "At present, they constitute the greatest, perhaps the only enemy Israel has in the world. At the same time, Israel must not run amok into all sorts of peace arrangements without carefully examining them from the security point of view."

But when Rabin was later asked if his comments indicate that he agrees with Labor Party Secretary-General Nissan Zivili, (Continued on Page 2)



The sister of Liat Gabai, surrounded by her family, cries in agony during Liat's funeral in the Afula military cemetery yesterday. (AP)

Snow possible in Jerusalem, northern hilly regions

DAVID RUDGE

SNOW is forecast this weekend for Jerusalem and other parts of the country, especially in the North, as winter tightens its grip on the region. Strong winds and heavy rain lashed many places in the North last night, as the meteorological service issued storm warnings for today and tomorrow.

The weather bureau said the rain, accompanied by up to gale-force winds, would intensify today.

The bureau said thunderstorms were likely and there was a strong possibility of flooding in low-lying areas, given that the ground was already saturated.

The rain is expected to turn to snow on Mount Hermon and hilly regions of the North tonight. The same is likely in Jerusalem and hilly central regions tomorrow, following a further drop in temperatures.

The cold, wet front is expected to continue through Sunday, and temperatures are to remain cold.

The amount of rainfall since the beginning of November has far exceeded expectations. Zvi Ortengberg, head of the Lake Kinneret Authority, said precipitation in the catchment area of the lake had already reached half of the normal average for a whole winter. (Continued on Page 2)

Afula ax killer avoided roadblocks in taxi ride; Liat Gabai buried

DAVID RUDGE

THE terrorist who hacked Sgt. Liat Gabai to death in Afula on Wednesday had boarded a taxi in Jenin which apparently avoided IDF and police checkpoints by driving along dirt roads in the Tanachim settlements area, according to police sources.

The sources told *The Jerusalem Post* that the taxi, which was probably full with other residents of northern Samaria, had made its way through the villages in the area to the main road leading to Afula.

Police apparently learned of the details during questioning of the terrorist, Wahib Abu Roub, 25, of Kabatiya, near Jenin.

Roub, who was last night remanded for 15 days by the Nazareth Magistrate's Court, did not have a permit to enter Israel.

Police are believed to have details of the taxi driver and have started inquiries to trace him.

Hundreds of illegal workers from

the territories make their way into Israel every day by similar means and often stay overnight or longer with the help of their employers.

According to the police inquiries, Roub purchased the ax in Jenin after deciding that day that he would try to attack IDF soldiers in Afula.

He told reporters as he left court in Nazareth last night that he was a member of Hamas and had carried out the attack to prove his loyalty. (Continued on Page 2)

Assad: Israeli demands are unacceptable

US report: Israel should stay on Hermon

DAVID MAKOVSKY and news agencies

ISRAEL'S demands in the peace talks with Syria are "impossible to accept," Syrian President Hafez Assad declared in Damascus yesterday, just a few days before Secretary of State Warren Christopher is scheduled to arrive in the region to try to break the deadlock between the two countries.

Speaking to reporters after six hours of talks with Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak, Assad said Syria wanted peace. But he added: "Syria prefers to maintain the status quo rather than respond to demands being presented by Israel, which are impossible to accept."

Syria has previously said it would not engage in high-level talks with Israel, or move toward normalization of ties, until Jerusalem pledges a complete withdrawal from the Golan Heights. Israel has offered an unspecified pullback, but wants assurances on security arrangements and a definite timetable on diplomatic and economic links before it commits itself on how much territory it will return.

Meanwhile, a 54-page classified Rand Corp.'s National Defense Research Institute study on the Golan, commissioned by the Pentagon and obtained in full by *The Jerusalem Post*, says it is preferable that Israel retain its early warning station on Mount Hermon as part of any final Israeli-Syrian deal.

The report assumes Syria will probably maintain a similar early-warning station on the Golan, too. A US observation post on Mount Hermon could monitor both and provide information to each, the report says.

The study assumes a full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan that will take place in stages, with thorny issues such as the future of settlements and access to Jordan River headwaters being dealt with in later phases.

The Rand study was commissioned last year by the Office of the US Undersecretary of Defense for Policy, to research the possibility of a US contribution to an Israeli-Syrian peace. It was submitted to the Pentagon a year ago this month. The study does not constitute US policy.

While not suggesting a timetable for the phases, the study outlines in detail how different phases of Israeli military withdrawal, limited-forces zones and buffer zones could be implemented.

The report says it is preferable that US troops deployed on the Heights "be mechanized and armored so that it could defend [itself]." However, it recommends that the force not be large enough to provide a "war-fighting capability, such that the force could defend territory," let alone wage offensive action.

The report says a plan for asymmetrical limited-forces zones, under which the Syrian army would withdraw further than the Israeli army, could be worked out, but suggest that the asymmetry would not be as much as Israel would like. Syria, the report says, would not likely agree to have its military pushed so far that it would leave the approaches to Damascus unprotected. Thus, an asymmetrical pullback would not be enough to protect Israel from surprise attack.

"If an agreement is to be reached, Syrian forces are likely to remain closer to Israel than Israel would prefer - even if they are moved back from their current positions somewhat. Thus, adequate early warning and effective peace-keeping may be critical to any agreement," the report says.

In the early-warning arrangement preferred by the researchers, "Israel would keep its observation post on Mount Hermon, both sides would fly reconnaissance aircraft in their respective zones, and the US would fly reconnaissance aircraft over all zones."

The study says that deployment (Continued on Page 2)

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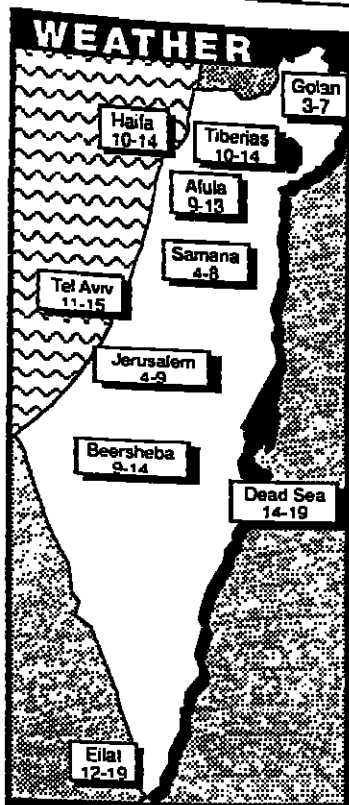
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Taxation, health services in areas transferred to PA

PALESTINIANS will pay their taxes to the Palestinian Authority after refusing to pay them to Israel for years. Palestinian Authority Finance Minister Mohammed Nashashibi declared yesterday.

Nashashibi was speaking at a ceremony in Ramallah, marking the transfer of the tax department of the civil administration in Judea and Samaria to the Palestinian Authority.

Later, in Nablus, responsibility for health services was formally turned over to the PA. This completed the implementation of "early empowerment" for the Palestinians.

BILL HUTMAN

outside the self-rule areas in five administrative spheres: education, welfare and tourism, along with taxation and health services.

"We are very optimistic about raising the necessary taxes from our very generous people," Nashashibi said. "I hope we will be able to meet all the needs of our government."

PA officials, however, have made clear that money raised through taxation will not be enough, and large-scale foreign donations are also needed to fund

various development projects.

Over NIS 70 million has already been raised through taxes in the autonomous areas of Gaza and Jericho, Nashashibi said.

Palestinians refused to pay both income and property taxes to the Israeli authorities, particularly during the intifada when Palestinian tax collectors resigned from the civil administration.

"This is a very important day," said Nashashibi, who represented the Palestinians at the ceremony. Israel was represented by civil administration head Brig.-Gen. Gadi Zohar.

Appointment of ambassador to Jordan expected today

News agencies

THE Foreign Ministry's appointments committee is expected to name Israel's ambassador to Jordan today.

However, the committee's decision might be delayed since many members are abroad.

Yossi Gal, head of the ministry's communications division, is considered to have the best chances to get the post. Other candidates include David Afek, head of the Center for Political Research, and Eytan Bensur, a ministry deputy director-general. The name of Oded Eran, head of the economics division, has also been mentioned.

There is also a chance that

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin will insist on naming the ambassador. His preferred candidate is Ephraim Levy, deputy Mossad head, who also has experience in dealing with Jordan.

Meanwhile, a Jordanian Foreign Ministry delegation toured Tel Aviv yesterday looking for premises for a Jordanian Embassy that is expected to be inaugurated next week.

Ahmed Mheidin said the four-man team headed by Omar Rifai, a senior ministry diplomat who took part in the peace negotiations with Israel over the last three years, will return to Jordan today.

Report: Iraq and Israel still in contact

DOUGLAS DAVIS
LONDON

SECRET contacts between Israel and Iraq are continuing via former French defense minister Jean-Pierre Chevenement, the London-based newsletter *Foreign Report* said yesterday.

Chevenement, an ardent advocate of Iraq's "rehabilitation" who is said to enjoy warm relations with Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, visited Baghdad for talks with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein two weeks ago.

The meeting, according to the newsletter, was the culmination of months of secret messages between Jerusalem and Baghdad passed via Chevenement.

Saddam's priority is to convince Washington to support the lifting of UN sanctions against Iraq, and he believes that the road to such a goal runs through Jerusalem.

However, Peres, who met Chevenement just before the latter's departure for Baghdad, is reported to have stressed that while Israel seeks peaceful relations with Iraq, Saddam should have no illusions about Israel's ability to affect the sanctions.

Previous reports indicated that contacts between Israel and Iraq were made both at the UN headquarters in New York, and through Barzan Takriti, Saddam's brother, who is Iraq's ambassador to the UN agencies in Geneva and effectively head of Iraqi intelligence in Europe.

Israeli officials have consistently denied that they have had any contacts with Iraqi officials.

RABIN

(Continued from Page 1)

who said the government must rethink the peace process and slow it down, Rabin said no.

Rabin's most emotional outburst at the committee session was reserved for Merom. Visibly angry, Rabin said: "People are griping about nonsense. Let the representatives of the kibbutz movement [i.e. Merom] first examine their own affairs and let them shut their mouths. If they do not shut their mouths, I will see to it that the kibbutz movement is reminded about whom it sends to represent it in the Knesset."

Regarding the economy, Rabin argued that "things are far better than they might seem. What does it mean that we have all these Arabs and foreign construction workers, 80,000 of them? Does this mean that we are suffering from unemployment or from laziness?"

"How bad can the situation be when so many cars are jamming the roads? No sooner do you construct new roads than they are jammed. Is this an indication of a low standard of living?" he asked.

Finance Minister Avraham Shohat, in his address, adopted the same line.

"If things are so bad, why are they so good?" he asked. "It is far easier for IDF veterans to find employment today. The unemployment rates are down among new immigrants. The statistics don't lie. Things are far better than they

are made out to be, and there is no justification for this foul mood that is gripping us. We have every reason to be proud."

Each central committee member was handed an "achievement book," listing what are claimed to be the government's accomplishments in the socio-economic sphere. The book is part of a campaign to improve the mood in Labor.

The committee members, however, were greeted by employees of TAAS-Israel Military Industries, who were demonstrating at Beit Berl against massive dismissals at the firm's plants.

Meanwhile, six regional council heads in the North came out strongly in support of Shives yesterday, saying that he was the most active and efficient person to ever run the Prime Minister's Office.

The statement, signed by the heads of Beit She'an Valley, Jordan Valley, Mateh Yehuda, Lower Galilee, Gilboa and Mateh Asher regional councils, said Shives had contributed more to the development of towns and villages in the north than any of his predecessors.

"Shives has and is working with great determination and efficiency to implement the changes in the [national] order of priorities, and has given tremendous push to development areas," the statement said.

David Rudge contributed to this report.

ASSAD

(Continued from Page 1)

of Israeli and Syrian early-warning stations on the Golan would be the least expensive option for the US.

If this would prove unacceptable to Syria, other less-desirable options are put forward, including the use of ground observers and/or ground-based sensors.

"Such sensors could be placed on the ground at various strategic locations in both Syria and Israel," the report states. "Or perhaps sensors could be attached to various pieces of equipment, such as tanks, and these sensors could monitor the number and location of the equipment."

The report says that more costly approaches, which would therefore be less desirable, involve "using aerostats, drones and reconnaissance aircraft to provide the required coverage from the air. The aircraft would be flown by Israelis, Syrians and Americans. Perhaps aerostats could provide most of the coverage, but these could be supplemented by drones and aircraft when necessary. Such an approach would be perhaps less intrusive than ground activity, but it is also likely to be more expensive."

"Finally, early warning could be provided by the US, using satellite coverage entirely," the report says. While terming this approach "politically unobtrusive," it also notes that this would be "very expensive."

"Unless the costs are borne by others, [early warning from air or space] seem less desirable from the point of view of the US," the report says.

Before Mubarak arrived in Damascus, Syria's official daily *al-Baath* accused Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres of hindering the peace talks.

"It should be clear that Syria's keen interest in the peace process will never persuade or force her to abandon or make concessions on an atom of the lands occupied in the June 1967 aggression," the editor wrote in a front-page comment.

Al-Baath dismissed a recent statement by Rabin that peace with Syria could not be achieved if it was not made before he ends his term of office next year.

"If Rabin thinks his statement would tempt Syria to hurry up, then he is completely mistaken," it said.

"Syria does not bet and will not bet on one particular Israeli government, whether it represents the Likud party or the Labor party... Syria will never shift under any type of pressure, or divert from the path which it believes will lead to a just and comprehensive peace."

AROUND THE WORLD

Location	Temp	Weather
Amsterdam	5-10	cloudy
Berlin	4-9	cloudy
Buenos Aires	15-20	clear
Calcutta	25-30	clear
Chicago	35-40	clear
Copenhagen	5-10	cloudy
Frankfurt	8-13	cloudy
Geneva	10-15	cloudy
Hong Kong	25-30	clear
London	10-15	cloudy
Los Angeles	65-70	clear
Moscow	10-15	cloudy
New York	45-50	clear
Paris	10-15	cloudy
Rome	10-15	cloudy
Stockholm	5-10	cloudy
Tokyo	10-15	cloudy
Toronto	5-10	cloudy
Vancouver	5-10	cloudy

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In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the 10 of spades, seven of hearts, queen of diamonds, and seven of clubs.

Maj.-Gen. Amiram Levine assumes Northern Command

DAVID RUDGE

MAJ.-GEN. Amiram Levine received his letter of appointment yesterday as OC Northern Command from Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Ehud Barak.

The appointment is to take effect today, when he will officially take over the post from Maj.-Gen. Yitzhak Mordechai.

The ceremony at Northern Command will mark the end of Mordechai's three years and eight months as OC Northern Command, and probably the end of his career in the army. He is the only major-general to have served as head of all three of the command forces: Southern, Central and Northern.

Mordechai, in his prepared speech for today's ceremony, said that during his tenure, Israel has embarked on peace negotiations with neighboring Arab countries, including Syria and Lebanon.

At the same time, terrorist elements have been waging on incessant war against the security zone, while making every effort to hit northern residents.

He said the cost of ensuring peace and security for residents of towns and villages along the northern border has been high, and that all the officers and soldiers involved in that mission deserve the highest praise.

Furthermore, he stressed his conviction that Israel will not forget the South Lebanese Army and residents of the zone "who stood by us," and will make sure that their rights are safeguarded.

It is still not clear what Mordechai intends to do after leaving his post. He has made no official comment on the matter.

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Foreign Minister Shimon Peres shakes hands with Pope John Paul at the Vatican yesterday. (AP)

Peres rejects offer to skip interim talks

ROME — Foreign Minister Shimon Peres quashed a proposal by Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin to sidestep Israel's interim peace deal with the PLO and go straight into talks on a final agreement.

Beilin said Wednesday that talks on Palestinian elections in the Gaza Strip and Judea/Samaria — the next stage in the peace deal — could prove futile.

Peres, in Rome for a two-day visit, said the idea was out of the question. "The suggestion to go to the final stage... would create a

definite and immediate crisis between Israel and the Palestinians," he told a news conference.

He said negotiations between Israel and the PLO had to be gradual, and that attempting to jump to the final stage would only create trouble.

"If we went to the last stage right now we would start to fight about Jerusalem," Peres said. "We chose a precise calendar in order to have enough time to improve our relationship with one another and

bridge our differences."

Beilin said that "It could be that the effort, energy and time that we would need to invest in reaching an interim agreement could be better spent in negotiating final status arrangements."

Peres said he discussed the future of Jerusalem during a private meeting at the Vatican yesterday with Pope John Paul.

The pope has repeatedly called for "international guarantees" to protect Jerusalem as the common

patrimony of the world's major religions.

Peres said Jerusalem did not need them. "What does international mean?" Peres told the news conference. "Israel shall guarantee the pluralistic nature of Jerusalem."

Israel and the Holy See signed a landmark agreement last December that led this year to full diplomatic ties.

During his visit to Rome, Peres also met Italian President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro and Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi.

Rabin: Israeli-made shells were fired at us

HIZBULLAH once fired Israeli-made shells, apparently obtained from Iran, at northern Israel, Prime Minister and Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin said yesterday.

He added that such shells had fallen in the security zone in Lebanon several days ago.

"Be careful about whom you sell weapons to," Rabin told the Labor Party's Central Committee.

Extremist Islamic movements financed by Iran were Israel's worst enemies, Rabin said, reiterating statements he made last month in Washington.

"For the sake of employment, we, the State of Israel, once sold weapons to Iran," Rabin said.

"The most important thing isn't the existence of the defense indus-

tries but whom we sell to." Israel maintained close defense relations with the Iran during the 1960s and 1970s, but Rabin may have been referring to Israel's involvement in the 1980s Iran-Contra scandal, in which Israeli anti-armor missiles were sold to Tehran as part of an arms-for-hostages deal.

Hizbullah has fired Israeli-made 120mm shells at Israel; four struck near Moshav Margalit and Kibbutz Minara in the Upper Galilee, Rabin said.

State-owned firms such as TAAS-Israel Military Industries are losing in excess of \$1 billion annually because of a shrinking world arms market and the avail-

ability of cheaper Soviet-made systems.

Defense industry sources yesterday told *The Jerusalem Post* that it is not uncommon for weapons systems to be resold several times and finally end up in hostile hands.

"That still means we, of all people, have to be careful," an IMI source said last night. "But it is also important to note that the weapons and ammunition we are talking about are simple, vintage, even obsolete."

"There is an abundance of readily available weapons in the world. An Israeli-made system which ends up in Hizbullah hands is more symbolic than actually threatening," the source said.

German envoy: Iran's a problematic country

ALON PINKAS

GERMANY acknowledges that Iran is "a problematic country," but prefers to maintain a dialogue with it rather than isolate and corner it, Franz Bertele, Germany's ambassador to Israel, said yesterday.

"There is no disagreement between Germany and Israel or the US on the issue of Iran, which we regard as a problematic country," Bertele said. "But it doesn't make sense to exclude Iran. It is preferable to maintain a dialogue, even on issues such as human rights, as we did with the former Soviet Union, with visible results."

He added that Germany is no longer Iran's main trading partner. "I think that the US and Japan surpassed us," he said.

On Tuesday, German President Roman Herzog and his wife Christine will arrive here for a two-day visit, as the guest of President Ezer Weizman.

"The president's visit is a further indication that Germany re-

gards Israel as an important partner. Given that 30 years ago we started below zero, I think we have accomplished a lot," Bertele said.

Herzog, who will be accompanied by Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel, will meet Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, Knesset Speaker Shevah Weiss. He will visit Yad Vashem and, at Weizman's suggestion, the development town of Yeroham. For the past several days the southern town has been swamped by German diplomats, security officials and journalists, preparing for Herzog's arrival.

But Herzog will have to share the media limelight with US Secretary of State Warren Christopher and the US Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. John Shalikashvili. Both will arrive on Tuesday.

On Wednesday, the chairman of the Polish parliament, the Sejm, also arrives.

2 Kalkilya residents arrested

RAINE MARCUS

TWO Arabs from Kalkilya were arrested yesterday after they allegedly tried to run down police and ram through roadblocks set up to catch them.

One was shot at by police after he tried to escape.

The incident began at around 10 a.m., when Sharon police officers noticed the two leaving a Hod Hasharon apartment. Police believed they had just burgled the premises, and they began to chase them. Detectives reported the incident to Dan police, and when the escape vehicle arrived at the Morasha Junction, the driver allegedly tried to run down a policeman who had signaled them to stop.

The vehicle sped off, ignoring roadblocks and orders to stop. Eventually the car was forced to halt by a plastic barrier. One man was arrested, while the driver fled into nearby bushes.

A policeman gave chase and ordered him to halt. When he refused, the policeman fired in the air before shooting the suspect in the lower part of his body.

The man was taken to Beilinson Hospital with moderate wounds. "The car he was driving was stolen from Tulkarm, and the license plates had been changed," police said.

This is the second time this week in which Tel Aviv-area police shot at Arabs from the territories trying to escape arrest in stolen vehicles.

Two Nablus residents are still recovering in the hospital from gunshot wounds they suffered when they tried to run down police who chased them through Bnei Brak. A third man escaped and was arrested.

It is still unclear whether these three intended to commit crimes or carry out a terror attack.

Petition filed to strip Levinger of round-the-clock IDF bodyguard

EVELYN GORDON

ABBI Moshe Levinger should be stripped of his personal IDF bodyguard, a petition to the High Court of Justice demanded yesterday.

The petition by Tel Aviv attorney Rami Biazzi charged that supplying a personal round-the-clock guard for Levinger by the IDF needlessly endangers soldiers' lives for purposes that have nothing to do with state security.

The danger is especially great, Biazzi said, because Levinger, who has a criminal record, including one conviction for causing the death of an Arab, has a habit of creating provocations.

Furthermore, Biazzi said, by endangering soldiers' lives for such a purpose, the army undermines the morale of both soldiers and their families.

Biazzi also argued that this privilege is discriminatory, since none of the other leaders of the settlement movement is given a personal guard.

This privilege will also encourage Levinger to continue his "criminal behavior," Biazzi said.

Even many army officers are unhappy about the decision, the petition claimed, both because of the expense it entails and because of Levinger's "insulting treatment" of IDF soldiers.

Finally, the petition said, there is no need for the personal guard, because the problem can be solved in other ways: Either Levinger can be barred from Judea and Samaria, or he can hire private guards.

Worshippers can't go to Temple Mount

HERB KERNON

to the public order. This is especially true, the judge ruled, when dealing with a group which "was clearly trying to be provocative."

Mizrahi ruled that after Pessah the police can restrict the group's access to the Temple Mount if they fear disturbances. The police had asked that the group be barred from the Temple Mount for six months.

Jewish prayer on the Temple Mount is forbidden, and Jews who look religious and wish to visit the site are accompanied by Israeli police or Wakf officials who ensure that they do not pray.

On Tuesday, the group of men,

each wrapped in a tallit, tried to get up to the Temple Mount through an entrance by the Lion's Gate. They were barred by Wakf officials, who called the police. After a scuffle, the 10 men were arrested.

Ezra, head of Hai Vekayam, a small right-wing group that advocates rebuilding the temple and establishing halachic rule in the country, said after the ruling. "This ban is in addition to the general directives that forbid Jews from praying on the Temple Mount, [directives] which have the police separating Jews into pairs when they go there, under the watchful eyes of Wakf officials and the police."

Israeli Arabs to protest against settlement of collaborators

DAVID RUDGE

ISRAELI Arabs intend to stage a mass demonstration in Nazareth this afternoon to protest against what they described as the settlement of collaborators and their families in Arab towns and villages inside the Green Line.

Police are bringing reinforcements into the town in case of any disturbances, although organizers have given assurances that the demonstration will be peaceful.

Nazareth, Shfaram and other councils have complained to the authorities against what they described as the government's decision to foist collaborators and their families on them.

Recently, three residents of Nazareth were charged with beating suspected collaborators in an attempt to force them to leave the area.

The opponents have charged that those who helped the authorities were themselves involved in drugs and prostitution and gave their assistance to avoid being tried on criminal matters. The allegations have been categorically denied by the authorities.

The *Jerusalem Post* has learned that the majority of collaborators and their families are being housed in Jewish areas and only a few in Arab towns and villages.

Two suspected of planting fake bomb

POLICE and IDF troops arrested two residents of Jilaboun village in northern Samaria yesterday on suspicion of planting a fake bomb along a patrol road on Mount Gilboa. The device, consisting of two pipes filled with nails, was discovered around 9 a.m.

Police from the special Green Line border unit and IDF troops followed the tracks of the suspected perpetrators to Jilaboun and arrested two brothers, one of whom had dirt on his shoes from the Gilboa region and reportedly admitted the offense.

David Rudge



Seeking Sister of Woman in photo who was sent to the Mauthausen Concentration Camp. Her sister is known to be a doctor living in Jerusalem.

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FILM AND DISCUSSION on Arab-Jewish Coexistence in Israel

Saturday, December 10, 1994, at 7:30 p.m. at the Jerusalem Cinematheque

FILM: Avanti Popolo (Director: Rafi Bukae), will be screened

DISCUSSION: The film will be followed by a discussion on Arab-Jewish coexistence in Israel, with Mohammed Daroushe, Director of the Arab Culture House in Nazareth and Spokesman, Arab Democratic Party.

Moderator: Dr. Ron Kronish, Director, Interreligious Coordinating Council in Israel (ICCI).

This project is sponsored by the Jerusalem Cinematheque and the ICCI, as part of the project, *Building Bridges Between Arab-Jewish Relations and Interreligious Relations in Israel*, funded by a joint grant from the Abraham Fund and the Tabbi Marc 11. Tanenbaum Foundation of New York.

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Clothes make the man – but not if the name's Marlboro

THE Israel Forum for the Prevention of Smoking has decided to launch a campaign – including a possible consumer boycott – against Polgat for opening a Tel Aviv boutique named Marlboro Classics. The Jerusalem Post has learned.

The forum, which comprises the Israel Cancer Association, Israel Society for the Prevention of Smoking (ISPS), the health funds and various departments of the Health Ministry, claims that Polgat is promoting disease and death along with fashions bearing a variation of Marlboro cigarettes' logo.

Meanwhile, Rabbi Yehoshua Scheinberger – head of the Rafe (Medicine According to Halacha) organization and known as the "health minister of the Eida Haredit" – said that Polgat "should start making shrouds instead of suits." The haredi community, he noted, is a major purchaser of Polgat suits, which are specially designed in dark colors and without shatnez, the halachically forbidden mixture of linen and wool.

Scheinberger said he would encourage a haredi boycott of Polgat if it continued to market Marlboro Classics, and encourage the public to buy clothing from its competitors.

Polgat has become the sole authorized distributor of Marlboro Classics fashions in Israel. It re-

JUDY SIEGEL

ceived the license from the Marzotto fashion house in Italy, which in turn purchased the rights to the name for this purpose from Philip Morris, the manufacturer of Marlboro cigarettes.

Polgat Managing Director Ryan Rosenthal told The Post yesterday that "we recently opened our first store in Kikar Hamedina and will decide whether to open more elsewhere. Manufacturers of other cigarette products have allowed the use of their name for fashions, including Lucky Strikes and Camels. Our aim is to sell high-quality clothes, not cigarettes."

But the forum countered that faced with increasing restrictions against advertising their products in the electronic and print media, tobacco companies are allowing other firms to market – for a fat fee – separate consumer products using their name and logo.

This, the forum argues, is good for all the companies, as surveys show Marlboro is the most famous brand name in the world after Coca Cola. "But those who wear the clothes become walking billboards, and it also encourages smoking among the public, especially young people by making it more socially acceptable," says ISPS director and legal adviser

Amos Hausner.

The forum intends to ask Polgat to change the name of the Tel Aviv store and halt the use of the Marlboro Classics logo (the lettering taken from the cigarettes, plus a man wearing a cape). If not, the forum said, it will use various means to call on the public to take action against Polgat for "identifying itself with a product that causes 10 times more deaths from cancer and heart disease each year than road accidents."

Hausner noted that haredi Jews launched a successful boycott against Pepsi Cola, and fashion houses for immodest or otherwise objectionable advertising – "and these don't kill."

In the US, the Ben and Jerry's ice cream company was forced by a consumer boycott to stop including Oreo cookies in its products because they are made by a subsidiary of the RJ Reynolds tobacco company. Thus, they argue, Israelis who object to promoting cigarettes under the guise of fashion may refuse on principle to buy Polgat clothes.

Oded Eliachar, a self-professed non-smoker whose company imports Marlboros, said he had nothing to do with the Marlboro Classics store, but "wouldn't object" if it and the clothing sold increased sales of his cigarettes.

Police investigate Lod stabbings

RAINE MARCUS

LOD police are investigating a multiple stabbing incident that occurred yesterday, in which two men and the mother of one of them were knifed.

Yesterday morning when a man accompanied by his mother, from Lod's Rakevet neighborhood, arrived at Assaf Harofeh Hospital's emergency ward, with stab wounds all over his body.

Shortly afterwards, another resident of Lod arrived at the same hospital with light stab wounds, and the mother of the first man recognized him as the man who had stabbed her son. She started screaming hysterically, and then the second man stabbed her in the chest. She was reported in moderate condition last night.

Police arrived on the scene and questioned the two men, who both have criminal records. They refused to cooperate, giving several different versions of events.

Police believe the two had fought over a drug deal.

250 Ethiopian families to get permanent homes soon

BATSHEVA TSUR

SOME 250 Ethiopian immigrant families, who have been living at mobile-home sites since Operation Solomon, will move to permanent housing within the next two months. Absorption Minister Yair Tzaban said yesterday.

The immigrants are currently staying at 10 sites which are slated for closure after the last of the immigrants move, Tzaban said. However, several hundred Ethiopian olim will continue to live at 12 other such sites until suitable housing can be found for them.

Since last year when the ministry began offering special mortgages with attractive terms to the Ethiopian community, 2,000 of the 3,750 families at the sites have bought apartments. Most of the new housing is in relatively well-established neighborhoods to encourage quick integration of the olim.

Of those still at the mobile-home sites, said Tzaban, about one-third are social cases who are eligible for public housing. Not all of the olim able to buy apartments are interested in receiving mortgages, Tzaban said, and he anticipated difficulties in vacating all the sites since some olim have demanded public housing instead.



Condoms and informational pamphlets are distributed to students at Tel Aviv University yesterday to mark International AIDS Day. (Rivka Funder)

Two held on suspicion of fixing soccer games

BILL HUTMAN

POLICE have arrested a National League soccer player and a well-known gambler on suspicion of trying to fix match-results in hopes of winning the Sportoto pool.

The suspects, a 28-year-old player for Hapoel Kiryat Shmona and a 40-year-old Ramat Gan resident, are to be remanded today at Petah Tikvah Magistrate's Court.

The two were detained Wednesday, the police spokesman said. The Ramat Gan resident allegedly belonged to a gambling ring which tried to fix games. The extent of the ring's operation, and whether they were ever successful in fixing matches, remains unclear.

The Kiryat Shmona player allegedly accepted bribes from the gamblers in exchange for trying to set the result of matches.

The alleged attempt to fix games was uncovered by a private investigating firm, Modi'in Ezerah, which was apparently hired by the Israel Football Association.

Information on the gambling ring and player involvement was recently turned over by the private investigators to the Police Serious Crimes Division.

French con man unable to pay bail deposit

RAINE MARCUS

HENRI Melle Huna, the French national charged with defrauding people he had befriended out of tens of thousands of shekels, was brought before the Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court yesterday because he was unable to make bail.

His son signed a NIS 100,000 bail bond for him, but Melle Huna was unable to find an additional NIS 15,000 cash deposit. Judge Amiram Binayim lowered the amount to NIS 10,000 and gave Melle Huna 10 more days to find the money. Huna is under house arrest until trial.

Huna was one of three alleged swindlers brought before the court yesterday. In a separate case, Shmuel Assouline, 27, a Bnei Brak post office employee suspected of stealing drivers' insurance money, was placed under house arrest by Judge George Kara yesterday.

He was tracked down when police discovered that a driver involved in a road accident had no compulsory car insurance. But the driver insisted he had paid for the insurance at his local post office.

Police said in court that for the past two-and-a-half years, Assouline has pocketed money paid to him for insurance and television fees. He allegedly stamped the relevant forms, and then canceled them. Three people who had paid their television fees to Assouline

were forced to pay again by the Israel Broadcasting Authority.

A man who presented himself to bank managers as a Lotto winner and subsequently withdrew sums of money "until my winnings arrive" was released on bail by Judge Kara yesterday.

Aharon Fabrikat, 49, allegedly opened accounts at seven banks, telling managers he had just won the jackpot and he would deposit his winnings within a few days. The unsuspecting managers allowed him to withdraw sums of money "for my kids," amounting to nearly NIS 20,000.

Fabrikat said he had gotten into debt because of a grey market loan.

Also appearing in court yesterday, was a rapist who failed to return from a furlough last August, and who was arrested earlier this week on suspicion he had raped a British tourist.

Rahamim Maful, 27, allegedly raped the 23-year-old tourist 12 times over a 10-day period at different hotels in the city. He had befriended her in the street and promised to help her during her stay here. Instead, he forced her to check in at different hotels, she said, and raped her.

Maful is also suspected of trying to rent an apartment that did not belong to him to another woman. He was remanded for eight days.

Boy drowns in water-filled pit

A four-year-old boy from the village of Juarish, near Ramle, drowned yesterday when he fell into a pit that had filled with rain water.

Police said the boy had been playing near the pit when he slipped and fell into it. Police, firefighters, MDA workers and an IDF rescue squad, including a diver, were called to the scene.

The boy's body was eventually found. Ramle police are investigating. (Itm)

In deep sorrow we announce the passing of our dear husband and father Rabbi REUVEN ZVI (Robert) MARCUS ז"ל

Funeral will take place today, Friday, December 2, 1994 (29 Kislev 5755) at 12 noon leaving from Sanhedria funeral parlor to Har Hamenuhot. Shiva at 60 Ben-Maimon St., Jerusalem. The Family

We extend condolences to Dr. Pesach Schindler on the passing of his father

Reb ALEXANDER MOSHE

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Druse councils, Treasury to work out funding plan

EVELYN GORDON

THE Treasury and the heads of the Druse local councils will work out a long-term funding plan for the community by March 1. Finance Minister Avraham Shohat promised a group of demonstrators yesterday.

Meanwhile, the head of the Druse strike committee, Tapash Amad, yesterday asked the High Court of Justice to order the government to give the Druse full equality. The petition will be heard by a panel of three justices.

Shohat told an angry group of Druse demonstrating in Tel Aviv that he had agreed with the Druse local council heads on two things. First, that within two weeks, he would see what could be done to increase the Druse development budget for 1995. He is meeting with the local council heads today to discuss this issue.

Second, Shohat said, they agreed that the council heads would give him detailed material about each town, and based on that, they would work out a long-term plan for how much money would be invested in the Druse

community during each of the next few years.

Amad, in his petition to the court, pleaded for equal treatment of Druse in social as well as financial respects.

"All the doors are closed before me and other members of the Druse community," he wrote. "In the army, we are considered Israelis. But after demobilization, we become a 'minority' subject to all kinds of advisers and appointed mukhtars – something which speaks for itself."

"We are equal only in the cemetery," he continued. "[We are bound by] the compulsory military service law and the obligation to pay income tax, [but] there is no law to protect us ..."

"[Israel has said] yes to letting us die for our homeland, but to letting us live in honor as equal citizens, [Israel has said] no."

Amad said that while the government decided in 1987 to give the Druse full equality with the Jews, nothing had changed. A law to mandate this has been buried in the Knesset, he said.

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The Family

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The funeral and shiva took place in Texas.

Mourning by: The Handelman Family, Mitzpeh Hoshaya
The Carlson Family, Ft. Worth and Arlington, Texas
The Abish Family, New York City

With deep sorrow we announce the passing of our beloved husband, father and grandfather

RUDOLF (Rudi) ROTHENSTEIN ז"ל

The funeral took place on Thursday, December 1, 1994 (28 Kislev 5755).

Mourning by: His wife, Rosy
His son and daughter-in-law, Rafi and Tami Ronel
His daughter and son-in-law, Ruti and Oren Agranat and grandchildren

Shiva at the Rothenstein home, 1 Brenner St., Kiryat Ono.

With deep sorrow, we announce the death of our mother and grandmother on November 30, 1994

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formerly of Harbin, China

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Olga and Muli Avichai
Tamar and Yuval Karniel
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who passed away on November 15, 1994

ביום ד' כסלו ה'תשנ"ה

With deep sorrow we announce the passing of our beloved husband, father and grandfather

ALEXANDER MOSHE SCHINDLER

son of Avraham Yitzhak ז"ל

The funeral will take place today, Friday, December 2, 1994 (29 Kislev 5755), leaving at 11 a.m. from the Shamgar Jerusalem Municipal Funeral Home for the Givat Shaul Cemetery in Jerusalem.

Mourning by: His wife, Esther
His son and daughter-in-law, Pesach and Shulamith
His son and daughter-in-law, Ruben and Rachel
grandchildren, great-grandchildren and the entire family

Shiva at his son's home, 2 Sd. Levi Eshkol, Jerusalem

מקום אביו

UN peace mission in Bosnia fails

SARAJEVO (AP) — In a further challenge to the crumbling UN bid to stop fighting in Bosnia, Serb forces yesterday detained peacekeepers, blocked humanitarian supplies and fired missiles at Sarajevo.

In embattled northwest Bosnia, where Serb forces have nearly surrounded the Muslim enclave of Bihać, machine-gun and small-arms fire raged a day after a failed peace mission by UN chief Boutros Boutros-Ghali.

Military intervention by the allies on behalf of the besieged Moslem-led government grew more unlikely in Brussels, Belgium, US Secretary of State Warren Christopher told NATO allies the Clinton administration now agrees with European allies that diplomacy is the best way to deal with the war.

UN spokesman Alexander Ivankov said in Zagreb, Croatia, that Bosnian Serb units crossed into Croatia and kidnapped seven Ukrainian peacekeepers. They took the soldiers and a UN armored carrier into Bosnian Serb-held territory, he said.

The Ukrainians' observation point is now occupied by the Serbs, Ivankov said, and the United Nations has not been able to make contact with its troops.

More than 400 other UN soldiers are detained by the Serbs as insurance against further NATO air strikes following three allied bombing raids on Serb targets last week.

In Sarajevo, UN spokesman Thant Myint-U said Serbs ignored 21 requests to allow food and fuel supply convoys to pass through Serb-held territory. He said UN supplies were running low in government-held eastern Bosnian enclaves and in Bihać. Humanitarian convoys were also blocked.

In downtown Sarajevo, two buildings of the Interior Ministry were hit by anti-tank missiles. Four people were wounded.

Sarajevo's airport remained closed since Serbs denied flight clearance, ruling out any relief flights to the Bosnian capital.

Neither side seemed ready for peace. The Bosnian government rejected a cease-fire plan proposed by Boutros-Ghali during a brief visit on Wednesday, and Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic refused even to meet with the UN chief. The intransigence on both sides led Boutros-Ghali to suggest for the first time that the UN peacekeeping mission might have to end.

Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic told Boutros-Ghali that his government would negotiate only after Serbs accepted a peace plan that they repeatedly have rejected. He reiterated his government's offer of a three-month cease-fire, but Serbs want something more permanent.

Bosnian Serbs snubbed Boutros-Ghali altogether. Radovan would not come to the Sarajevo airport to meet him, and Boutros-Ghali refused to enter Serb-held territory for the meeting.

Clinton turns to old faces to deal with new Congress

AS the old Democratic gang that long has ruled the US Congress takes its final bows this week, another group of veteran Democrats is finding new stature: President Clinton's old-timers.

The jobs of Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen have never looked more secure. And Clinton's chief of staff, former Republican Leon Panetta, now is the point man in White House efforts to reach out to Clinton's newly powerful opponents in Congress.

Christopher, Bentsen and Panetta all have a history of working congenially with some of the Republicans who will be in command on Capitol Hill in Washington thanks to a major victory in Nov. 8 mid-term elections.

In Christopher's case the White House also might not be keen to ask the Senate

Foreign Relations Committee to approve a successor once it passes into the hands of arch-antagonist Jesse Helms, a Republican senator from North Carolina.

Panetta has been at the center all week, representing the White House's views, sounding conciliatory and centrist, as the 103rd Congress meets for the last time to consider the world trade treaty. He's even spoken for the administration on Bosnia.

Panetta, a Democrat since he switched parties in the early 1970s and former chairman of the House of Representatives' Budget Committee, is signaling he will continue to search for common ground with the Republicans.

In listing Clinton's new legislative priorities, Panetta says the first is "to keep the economic recovery going and keep the deficit going downward." Second is wel-

ANALYSIS
TOM RAUM

fare reform, which also has much Republican support.

Only after that does Panetta mention health care reform, once Clinton's centerpiece initiative.

The old-timers' represent the center of the US political spectrum, toward which Clinton is moving in order to deal with Republicans.

"All Democrats after Nov. 8 will be centrists," jokes Democratic Sen. John Breaux. "I think the message was very clear, it was very loud, very emphatic."

Expect to see more of Panetta and Bentsen and other old hands as the White House tries to work with the new leader-

ship and sort out its identity crisis.

That means less of the younger, brasher faces, such as George Stephanopoulos and Democratic adviser Paul Begala, who have often spoken for the White House over the past two years.

"This concept of a youthful White House is not reassuring to anybody, at home or abroad," said Sheila Tate, former aide to former first lady Nancy Reagan and to George Bush and now a public relations executive. "I think that has finally sunk in."

Not only does the Clinton White House have to learn to work with the new Republican leadership and deal with the party's emergent right wing, but it also will have to work with the new Democratic congressional leadership.

That could be a blessing in disguise for Clinton, since he got off to such a bad

start the first time around.

Many veteran Democratic figures were having their last hurrah this week, including House Speaker Tom Foley, Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell and Rep. Dan Rostenkowski, the former chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee.

In reaching out to Republicans on the new General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade agreement, Clinton was off to a good beginning. But GATT also was an easy first test. It already had considerable support from both parties.

Come January, things will be far more complicated.

The writer has covered the White House for the AP since 1989 and has reported on government and national politics since 1973.



Irmgard Moeller is surrounded by supporters after being released from Luebeck's prison yesterday.

Yeltsin reissues Chechnya ultimatum but drops key threat

MOSCOW (Reuters) — President Boris Yeltsin yesterday reissued his ultimatum to warring forces in the rebel region of Chechnya to stop fighting but omitted a key phrase threatening to declare a state of emergency there.

The ultimatum still said Russia would take all necessary measures to restore order in the region, which has seen fighting between forces loyal to Chechen leader Dzhokhar Dudayev and a Moscow-backed opposition.

Yeltsin's press service said the ultimatum was reissued because some sections of the media had come up with differing interpretations of which measures could be taken against Chechnya.

The new version dropped the key words "a state of emergency will be imposed".

Yeltsin said Tuesday he would clamp down hard if the Chechen government, which declared independence in 1991, and Moscow-backed opposition forces did not stop fighting, disband armed units and free prisoners.

Moscow imposed a state of emergency on Chechnya shortly after the independence declaration and flew in troops. But after Dudayev's forces blockaded the airport, the Kremlin was forced into a humiliating climb-down and pulled out the soldiers.

The Caucasus region of Chechnya has been a thorn in Russia's flesh for 200 years.

The largely Moslem country, on the northern slopes of the Caucasus mountains, was colonized by Russia in 1867 as part of imperialist Russia's drive south.

The bid to colonize the region had started 40 years earlier when Russia, reluctant to allow independent tribes to occupy a wide strip of territory between itself and newly acquired Georgia, started settling armed Cossacks volunteers there.

This Cossack push triggered resistance almost everywhere in the

Caucasus, but Chechens, brought up to be warriors and fighters, struggled more fiercely than the rest for independence.

It took decades and thousands of lives in the war of 1817-64 to bring Chechnya under control. Even then the region, governed by clans and the stern laws of vendetta, did not really come under Moscow's control.

It took another 17 years for the Bolsheviks, Russia's new rulers in 1917, to make their mark on Chechnya. The clans and Islam were officially persecuted but never defeated in Chechen hearts.

When German troops were camped at the gates of Grozny in 1943, Chechen separatists launched a rebellion against Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin.

Stalin took revenge a year later. He expelled half the people of Chechnya — and their ethnic cousins and neighbors, the Ingush — to the wilds of Kazakhstan.

Almost 200,000 people are believed to have died in the years of exile which ended only in 1957.

In August 1991, when top Communist Party officials launched an abortive hardline coup in Moscow, the leaders of the Soviet-era unified Chechen-Ingush autonomous republic rushed to support the coup plotters.

After the coup collapsed, the discredited Chechen leadership was replaced by a temporary council with the implicit blessing of Yeltsin. The increasingly powerful Yeltsin was preparing to bury the Soviet Union.

Russia's plans for Chechnya went awry when Dudayev, a 47-year-old Soviet air force general based in distant Estonia, unexpectedly went home and united his people under the banner of independence.

Dudayev's men toppled the council in a bloody mutiny in October 1991.

Chechnya's first presidential elections, condemned by Russia,

Germany frees Red Army Faction terrorist

LUEBECK (AP) — When Irmgard Moeller went to prison 22 years ago for blowing up three American soldiers, the United States was fighting a war in Vietnam. When she walked out yesterday, she heard the same anti-war songs.

Just about everything else was different. "It still feels unreal," she said after stepping out the blue steel prison gate into the crisp air of this Baltic city, freed early from a life sentence.

About 200 supporters waved red flags, chanted revolutionary slogans and presented flowers as Germany's longest-held female prisoner walked free, wearing jeans, a black leather jacket

and a red sweater. "I have to think first about what I'll do in future," Moeller told reporters as she hugged friends and leftist activists, bearing Christmas presents and flowers.

Moeller, her activities subject to approval by a probation officer for the next five years, promised to work for the release of other jailed terrorists. "The others must not stay in prison as long as I have," she said.

"Free all political prisoners," the crowd chanted and carried banners with the same message.

As she was driven away in her lawyer's car, a loudspeaker mounted on a van blared out "Internationale," the revolutionary socialist hymn.

Moeller's release could lead to freedom for the seven other Red Army Faction serving long sentences.

Unlike some other previously released former Red Army Faction members, Moeller did not renounce her terrorist past.

But authorities could be hoping that her release will cement a truce with the leftist group that once had been seen as a possible threat to democracy.

Three years ago, then President Richard von Weizsaecker said it was time to start a dialogue with former terrorists and to try to reintegrate them into society.

After killing a German official in 1991 and blowing up a prison in 1993, the Red Army Faction said

it was ending its 20-year campaign of violence, during which it often targeted the American military and other symbols of what it called "imperialism."

Moeller was convicted of driving one of the explosives-laden cars that blew up in a parking lot at US Army Headquarters in Heidelberg on May 24, 1972. The bomb killed Capt. Clyde R. Bonner and two enlisted men, Charles L. Peck and Ronald A. Woodward.

Moeller was arrested six weeks after the attack and sentenced to life in prison, plus 15 years.

Moeller was freed due to poor health, although she has shown no remorse and refused to cooperate with psychiatric evaluations to determine if she was still dangerous.

42-nation Paris summit marks AIDS day

PARIS (AP) — Speakers and activists at a 42-nation summit on AIDS pleaded yesterday for compassion for homosexuals, drug users and prostitutes often shunned by politicians and the public.

Governments should redouble their efforts to end discrimination against these groups, at high risk of becoming infected with the HIV virus that causes AIDS, participants said.

"All laws which deny the freedom of people to cross borders because of HIV must be abolished," said Richard Burzynski, an HIV sufferer with a Canada-based AIDS rights group.

ICASO, "This means all laws which criminalize or discriminate against homosexuals, drug users, migrants and refugees, and sex workers must be abolished."

Governments tend to ignore or isolate homosexuals, worsening rather than addressing the AIDS epidemic, the International Gay and Lesbian Association said in a statement.

Homosexuals must be accepted, educated and protected by legislation, the group said.

Officials of the 42 participating nations endorsed a declaration pledging to strengthen cooperation between developed and Third

World countries and to fight discrimination against those suffering from AIDS.

"We are not meeting here simply to issue a further warning, but to declare a planetary emergency," said UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. "Every day, AIDS kills children, destroys families, drains economies, threatens communities. We must act without delay."

The non-binding declaration says signatories will act to "ensure that all persons living with HIV/AIDS are able to realize the full and equal enjoyment of their fundamental rights and freedoms."

Major invites Sinn Fein to historic talks

LONDON (Reuters) — Britain yesterday invited the IRA's political wing Sinn Fein to historic peace talks, three months to the day after the cease-fire in their violent campaign to oust Britain from Northern Ireland.

Prime Minister John Major, who once said such talks would "turn his stomach," put aside his reservations and asked Sinn Fein to meet senior civil servants on December 7 in Belfast.

The exploratory talks, aimed at securing a place for Sinn Fein at all-party discussions on Northern Ireland's future, are a reward for a September 1 cease-fire the IRA declared in its 25-year war to end British rule in the province.

"The opportunity to realize a lasting peace, which will benefit all of the people of Ireland, has never been greater," Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams said in Belfast.

A notable dissenter was fiery Protestant politician Ian Paisley, who said at question time in the London parliament that Major's decision to talk to "the men of blood" was "highly resented by a vast majority of people" in the province.

Separate British talks with the IRA's armed Protestant wing, who responded with a ceasefire of their own in October, are likely to start soon after the Sinn Fein meeting, Northern Ireland Secretary Sir Patrick Mayhew told parliament.

Fighting by militia groups and security forces has claimed more than 3,000 lives, many of them innocent civilians, in the past 25 years.

"The exploratory talks will be a vital step in the process of consolidating a lasting peace in Northern Ireland," an aide to Prime Minister John Major told Sinn Fein in the invitation.

Major's office said the decision to hold "talks about talks" was possible only because the government had been able to make a working assumption that the truce was permanent.

"The opening and continuation of this dialogue of course depend on Sinn Fein's continued commitment to exclusively peaceful methods and the democratic process," it said.

It will be the two sides' first official meeting since Ireland was partitioned in the 1920s and is the culmination of a year-old drive for peace launched by Major and Albert Reynolds, who resigned last month as Irish prime minister.

The talks between long-time foes will not be easy. British officials and ministers emphasized that Sinn Fein would not be given a seat at full-blown political talks until the IRA had handed over their guns and explosives.

Sinn Fein has repeatedly said that arms could be handed in only as part of a final political settlement.

Clinton wants additional \$25b. for military

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Clinton will ask for an additional \$25 billion for the military budget to help improve the readiness of forces and the quality of life for the troops, Pentagon officials said.

Clinton was slated to announce support for the increase at the White House later yesterday, the officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The money, which would have to be okayed by the new Republican-controlled Congress, would help cover a \$40b. shortfall over five years that had been created by a congressionally required pay raise, and by inflation, the officials said.

"It focuses, however, on the issue of readiness — making sure the

force is able to conduct and win the nation's wars," one of the senior officials said.

The move is also expected to help Clinton quell Republican charges that the administration has, through its budget cuts, hurt the nation's defense posture.

The Pentagon officials said it was unclear to them exactly where the administration hoped to glean the additional funds.

It comes just two weeks after the Army announced that due to operations in Rwanda, Haiti and elsewhere, three of the Army's 12 divisions were left far below their peak readiness levels.

The new funds are expected to also improve housing and other quality-of-life programs.

Gingrich promises sexy novel

NEW YORK (AP) — Swept to prominence in a Republican election victory, US Rep. Newt Gingrich is showing a sexy side. In his forthcoming novel 1945, that is.

"Suddenly the putting sex kitten gave way to Diana the Huntress," Gingrich writes in a draft of the World War II thriller excerpted in *The New York Times* Sunday magazine. "She rolled onto him and somehow was sitting at his chest, her knees pinning his shoulders. 'Tell me or I will make you do terrible things,' she hissed."

Moments later, the hapless White House chief of staff succumbs to the German spy's spell, telling her: "We're making this new kind of bomb."

Gingrich, generally seen as a conservative, is in line to become Speaker of the House.

His best-known written work to date is his Republican manifesto, "Contract With America," but he did try his hand at a novel once before. In 1977, Gingrich says the literary agent who looked at it told him: "It is clear that you shake hands better than you write fiction."

Ship was born under an unlucky star

JEFFREY DONOVAN
ROME

IF ever a ship was born under an unlucky star, it was the *Achille Lauro*.

The ill-fated Italian cruise liner, made famous by a dramatic hijack at sea in 1985, had seen so many portents of doom in its 47 years on the waves that the blaze which crippled it off Somalia almost came as no surprise.

Two elderly passengers, a German and a Briton, died and 977 passengers and crew were picked up by passing ships from life boats in the Indian Ocean after a fire engulfed the \$30 million "Big Blue Liner" — as Italians fondly call it — early on Wednesday.

About 100 of the 400 or so crew stayed on board for several hours to try to tackle the fire but eventually gave up.

The entire crew are attached to the *Achille Lauro* by a bond of true love," said Nicola Coccia, chairman of owners StarLauro. "They see it as their ship."

The *Achille Lauro* hit headlines in October 1985 when Palestinian terrorists seized it in the Mediterranean and killed Leon Klinghoffer, an elderly, wheelchair-bound Jewish-American, dumping his body overboard.

The odyssey of terror, the work of four Palestinians loyal to terrorist Abu Abbas, brought down an Italian government and inspired an opera and a television movie.

Yet by then the vessel had already seen drama in plenty as it heaved by Poseidon, the ancient Greek god of the seas.

Built in the Netherlands and named the Willem Ruys in 1947, she collided with her sister ship *Oranje* in 1953 as the two attempted to salute one another in the Red Sea. Slight damage and no injuries were reported.

The ships were bought from Rotterdam-based Lloyd and renamed by Neapolitan shipping magnate *Achille Lauro* in 1965, but they mysteriously burned and sank in Palermo port.

They were later rebuilt but the *Achille Lauro* caught fire again in 1972 in Genoa, the northwestern Italian port of origin of the ship's latest luxury cruise.

Death stained the ship for the

the killing and appeared antisemitic.

The *Achille Lauro* was at the center of a storm earlier this year when Italian neo-fascist Gianfranco Fini took a cruise on board to the World War II battlefields of North Africa with hundreds of supporters of his National Alliance party.

Fini, whose party is in Italy's government, was accused of insensitivity to Jews by choosing the vessel for the cruise.

Achille Lauro the man was forced to sell the pride of his once mighty fleet as his shipping empire collapsed. Nicknamed "The King of Naples", he died at the age of 95 in 1982.

His son Ercole said "I have avoided watching television so as not to witness the fire that is destroying the ship."

"Those images would be a blow to my heart."

But the ship, listing in a pall of smoke in the Indian Ocean, may not sink and could be salvaged, Italian coastguard captain officials said yesterday.

"The ship may not sink. The reason is that the upper decks collapsed internally in the fire and their weight has helped stabilize it at the position of its list," coastguard captain Ferdinando Lolli told reporters.

Let Us Represent You in Oslo

The Terror Victims' Association is sending a protest delegation to the Oslo Nobel Prize ceremonies. The delegation will consist of families of terror victims killed since the signing of the Oslo agreement. All our delegates will donate their time and vacation pay, but only your donation can make the trip possible.

If you want us to represent you in Oslo, please send your donation to:

Terror Victims' Association, P.O.B. 23666,
81 Rehov Rashi, Jerusalem
Tel. 02-3889999.
Meir Indor, Chairman
Terror Victims' Association

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A macabre ritual

IT is not only the growing number of terror victims that creates frustration and rage among the public, but the impression that the killings have become routine and inexorable.

A macabre ritual seems to have developed around the murders. Public figures express shock at their savagery and convey condolences to the bereaved families. Thousands join massive, televised funerals, in which government officials dare not participate. Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin vows the government will not "hand the killers a victory by stopping the peace process." And the opposition, calling for an immediate cessation of talks, accuses the government of encouraging terrorism by dealing with the PLO.

Then the country returns to its routine, helplessly awaiting the next news of murder and mayhem.

Following the ax murder of Liat Gabai in Afula on Wednesday, Rabin seemed to realize that unless the public sees some light at the end of the tunnel, the feeling of helplessness will be replaced by outright despair. By way of encouragement, he said that the Islamic movements, Israel's most virulent enemies today, are probably its only remaining foe. In Israel and the territories, he said, it is the Hamas and the Islamic Jihad which attack Israelis. In Lebanon, it is the Hizbullah. The enemies are the Islamic fanatics, not the "secular" Arabs.

The implications of Rabin's words are clear. The fanatics, supported by Iran, are not only Israel's enemies, but the enemies of peace and stability in the region. It is in the interest of other Arabs to fight them just as much as it is ours. And once we all get together and vanquish this bad lot, we'll have peace.

It would be nice to believe that this is so, and that the only dangerous dictatorship in the Middle East is indeed Iran. But it is difficult to find confirmation for this simplistic view. In fact, pronouncements by two decidedly "secular" Arabs this week make a mockery of this assumption.

Yesterday, Syria's dictator Hafez Assad said that he would rather maintain the status quo than yield to Israel's demands "which are impossible to accept." What the Syrians so strenuously object to is Israel's insistence on adequate security arrangements and a Syrian commitment to a peace treaty and "normalization." That Damascus would rather stay in a state of war with Israel than negotiate such demands is hardly a sign of an overwhelming passion for peace.

Nor does it make sense to point to the Hizbullah and its sponsorship by the Iranian ayatollahs as proof that only the Islamic militants are Israel's enemies. Without Assad's help, support and ap-

proval, neither the Hizbullah nor any of the other nine terrorist organizations headquartered in Syrian-controlled territory and dedicated to the destruction of Israel could exist.

Nor is the official tone of the PLO, the organization Rabin once expected to fight the Islamic terrorists in the territories, any less belligerent than Syria's. In a UN speech earlier this week, Farouk Kadoumi, billed as the "Foreign Minister of the State of Palestine," returned to the rhetoric of the pre-Oslo days. In a speech characterized by Israel's ambassador to the UN Gad Ya'acobi as harsh and antagonistic, Kadoumi not only demanded Israel's evacuation from all territories won in 1967 and the implementation of the Palestinian "right of return," but blamed Israel for the increased instability and terrorism in "Palestine."

It is difficult, then, to see the fight against Hamas and Hizbullah as the battle against Israel's last enemy. Nor is it possible to imagine that the "secular" Arab will join Israel in its war against Islamic terrorism. On the contrary. Since terrorism against Israelis seems to achieve precisely the results it wants: demoralization, despair and talk of evacuating villages and towns in the territories, there is every reason to believe not only that terrorism will increase, but that "seculars" like the Fatah Hawks will soon openly join the competition for the allegiance of Palestinians by attacking Israelis. Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Ehud Barak has warned that calling for the evacuation of settlements is bound to have precisely this effect.

The government's position is unenviable. It now realizes that the next step in the Oslo timetable is simply not implementable. Evacuating the army from Arab population centers will create terrorist strongholds in every one of them, and cause a security problem next to which the present situation will seem like a model of tranquility.

The government can either suspend the process, which will bring world calumny and an open PLO return to the "armed struggle." Or it can follow Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin's advice, skip the two-year interim period and negotiate the final status immediately, in the hope that an agreement with the PLO, meaning the total withdrawal from the territories, will bring peace.

If the government is true to form, it will do neither. It will drag the negotiations on aimlessly, in the hope that the spectacular achievements of the security services will manage to curb terrorist activity, and that some development or another will point to happier options.

And the public will pray that television news will include no more funerals.



The four forgotten billions

MOSHE ZAK

THREE envoys from the Middle East visited European Union headquarters in Brussels this week: Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Shara, and Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat.

Shara emerged with a lifting of the arms embargo the Europeans had imposed on Damascus in 1986, after the uncovering of a Syrian plot to plant a bomb on an El Al plane in London.

Arafat got the Europeans to agree to tens of millions of dollars in immediate financial aid to the PA.

But Peres left with nothing for Israel. The Europeans even ignored his pleas that the arms embargo on Syria be retained until President Hafez Assad lifts his embargo on direct negotiations with Israel.

Yet Peres emerged encouraged from his Brussels meetings. He had succeeded in persuading the European ministers to prevent the collapse of Arafat's administration. But he didn't deal with Israel's most pressing issue: closing the gap between European exports to Israel and our exports to Europe.

Israel spends twice as much on European goods as the EU spends on Israeli goods. Israel requested a reduction in customs duties on its exports.

At first, the EU postponed the talks to pressure Israel to change its policy toward the Palestinians. After the change of government here in 1992, many EU ministers promised they would take a more positive stand on Israeli exports. There were numerous promises about accelerated negotiations. But practical results failed to ma-

terialize. Israel's trade deficit with Europe is still almost \$4 billion.

Instead of the European ministers apologizing to Israel for this discrimination, Peres was forced to listen to their criticism.

One minister was offended that no EU representative spoke at the

The Russians, who wanted Israeli recognition of their cosponsor status, took care to abstain in the UN General Assembly vote on this year's Arab draft resolution on Palestinian self-determination. But most EU countries voted for it.

Peres helped get \$100m. for Arafat, but didn't press for any change in Israel's trade agreement with the EU

Israel-Jordan treaty-signing ceremony, although the Russian foreign minister was accorded this honor. Another blamed Israel for delaying IDF withdrawal from urban centers in the territories to permit elections to the Palestinian Council. A third complained that Israel isn't employing enough laborers from Gaza.

PERES DID NOT go to Brussels to plead for Israel, although he should have. He went to urge the Europeans to step up financial assistance to the Palestinians.

The Europeans acceded. They gave to the Palestinians, but demanded a quid pro quo from Israel. They want political status in the negotiations with Syria and the Palestinians.

The EU is trying to achieve equal status with the US and Russia as sponsors of the peace process, and Israel has no interest in becoming involved in the struggle for prestige between Brussels and Moscow.

Moscow understood that, to be a sponsor, it must not vote for a resolution on a matter that is to be discussed in Israel's negotiations with the Palestinians on the final status. The US, for its part, voted against.

Israel doesn't need a showdown with the EU: economic ties and cultural heritage link us with that continent. Nor should the EU's political and economic power be sneezed at.

But it is hard to ignore the obstacles the EU has placed in the way of direct negotiations with the Syrians. The Syrian press rejoiced at Syria's victory over Israel in getting the EU ministers to lift the arms embargo.

The main importance of the unanimous decision was political. It indicated that the EU is trying to intervene in the Israeli-Arab conflict - and in Syria's view, this is good for the Arabs.

Here, then, lies the root of the problem: Israel doesn't want international intervention, but direct

talks; Syria doesn't want direct talks, but as much international intervention as possible. It wants the Russians and Europeans, the Americans and Chinese, to press Israel to withdraw to the 1967 lines.

The Syrian stand extends an invitation to the EU, while ours seeks minimal international intervention - at most, financial assistance, not an influence on the form of the settlement.

Israel was generous at Brussels in worrying about the Palestinians' financial needs before dealing with redressing the EU's economic injustice toward us - but it is doubtful the European countries properly appreciated this.

The Europeans could interpret our eagerness to promote support for the Palestinians as evidence of a guilty conscience over administering the territories. If so, they might feel we have to compensate them, by letting them intervene in the political process, for their financial assistance to the Palestinians.

But this is a misinterpretation. Israel has not treated the territories the way the Europeans treated their colonies. The improvement in health, education and the standard of living under Israeli rule has been immense, and the territories' residents have enjoyed far greater freedom than their brethren in Arab countries.

This difference between European colonialism and Israel's conduct should be stressed and amplified, so that Europe does not demand a political price for its aid to the Palestinians.

The writer, a veteran journalist, comments on current affairs.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

PRAYING FOR THE MIA'S

Sir, - The attendance of the Israeli chief rabbis at a ceremony at the Western Wall to commemorate Nahshon Wachsmann and Nir Poraz and pray for the return of the six missing-in-action soldiers (November 15) contrasts with the negative approach of their counterpart, the chief rabbi of the UK and British Commonwealth.

Persistent efforts have been made by those involved in the UK campaign for the release of the MIAs for the chief rabbi to instruct the rabbis under his jurisdiction to recite the prayer for the MIAs' release every Shabbat, as in Israel. To our utter amazement, these efforts have been met with procrastination. Having promised to give this matter priority last May, the UK chief rabbi has subsequently taken no action nor provided a reasonable explanation for this refusal when requested to do so some six months later. This is deeply offensive.

If it was deemed right to instruct his rabbis to recite a special prayer for those killed in the D-Day landings on the 50th anniversary of that event, how much more so is it appropriate to pray for the living?

DR. C. L. LEIC

Edlat (Edgware, UK).

UNDEMOCRATIC

Sir, - I am indignant at the decision of the High Court of Justice to legalize the destruction of the home belonging to the parents of the Tel Aviv bus bomber. This decision punishes innocent people for a deed committed by someone else. It violates basic democratic rules. Besides, isn't that the logic of Hamas, which penalizes innocent people just because they belong to their enemies?

The argument that this measure will deter potential terrorists from committing similar crimes is ridiculous in my opinion, because someone who is insane enough to blow himself up in a Tel Aviv bus in order to reach paradise won't care about the effect of his deed on his relatives.

CHRISTOPH GLANZ

Kibbutz Ma'anit.

OLEG

Sir, - I would like to thank Oleg for his wonderful cartoons. They are always funny, witty, sharp and unfortunately express the sad reality of our existence here in Israel. Kol hakavod!

Keep up the good work!

NADIA MATAR

Efrat.

DETERIORATION OF MORALE

Sir, - Mr. Itzhak Unna's letter (November 25) is a classic example of the Talmudic dictum: "Do not taunt your neighbor with the blemish which you yourself have"; for seldom has anything so redolent of "vitriolic bile" appeared in your paper.

Here I want to comment on one point only. He appears to take exception to the claim that the army has lost its fighting discipline; this is, in my experience, an understatement.

For over 20 years I have worked voluntarily among youth from all over the country. I am appalled at the deterioration I have witnessed in the attitude to the army in high schools, and in the morale of those who already serve. I find that in most, pride - even love - of country has become dim; there is a reluctance to serve in active units; motivation has diminished; and morale is at its lowest ebb.

Years of retreat, appeasement, hesitancy and irresolute leadership have ravished the self-confidence of our youth, already hampered by an educational system which backs away from teaching values as if they were infected with AIDS.

Mr. Unna says he is an incorrigible optimist. No doubt he has every confidence that Mr. Peres's all-purpose remedy of "economic Zionism" will inspire the next generation with ideals they will rush to defend. However, those who have an ear to the ground will know that to expect motivation in this atmosphere is like expecting a generation of Mother Teresa to emerge from the Sicilian Mafia.

Jerusalem.

MEIR ABELSON

THE SPIRIT OF HANUKKA

Sir, - When we were new immigrants back in 1970, we felt the spirit of Hanukkah throughout Israel. Today, the spirit of Hellenism has overpowered the miracle of the cruse of oil and the story of our glorious brothers, the Maccabees, and their re-establishment of Jewish self-rule.

The only Hanukkah program scheduled by Channels 1 and 2 for the week of November 27 to December 1 is one for children at 17:35 on November 27. The sole mention of the Maccabees is a basketball game to be broadcast by Channel 1 on December 1. Our minister of education and culture is asleep at the switch.

STANLEY LEVIN

Petah Tikva.

SUPPORTER OF ISRAEL

Sir, - Having grown up in the Midwestern United States, in a Gentile, Irish Catholic family, I had no knowledge of Jewish people. My mother had always taught us to respect them, because they were God's chosen people, but I never really knew until later in life. In 1986, I moved to Maryland and met a Jewish family, who were to have a profound impact on my life. The husband of this family was a Jewish history teacher. He began to teach me about the history of the Jewish people and gave me several books to read. I had never been taught that the Holocaust was the result of hundreds of years of antisemitism in the Christian Church.

As I was growing up, I was never taught about any of these things in school. The Holocaust was given cursory mention in the greater teaching about World War II. I just never knew the enormity of what Christians have done to the Jewish people over the years.

In 1992, my friends made aliyah and invited me to come with them to experience Israel. I felt it was the opportunity of a lifetime and came, not knowing that I would stay two years, acquire a basic knowledge of Hebrew, and experience so many wonderful things in this land. The past two years have been two of the most important and wonderful of my entire life and I will never forget them or the people who live in this Land of Israel.

I am writing this to say to all of the Jewish people here, thank you so very much for the opportunity to be here among you for this time. I return to the US to begin a new part of my life. I will never forget my time here and I will be an advocate and defender of this land and its people. I am not the same person who arrived here in September of 1992. I am forever changed and eternally grateful for this time.

LEA KANE

Jerusalem (Frederick, Maryland).

HERZL'S BIRTHPLACE

Sir, - According to your report of November 14, Austrian President Thomas Klestil placed a wreath on the tomb of Austrian-born Theodor Herzl.

May I point out that Theodor Herzl was born and raised in Budapest, which is located in Hungary.

Haifa.

ISTVAN SZEKELY

Several readers pointed out this obvious error. The mistake must have stemmed from the fact that Hungary was at the time part of the Austro-Hungarian empire. - Ed. J.P.

Oslo One is dead, long live Oslo Two

SHLOMO GAZIT

WHAT we are witnessing these days are the death throes of the Oslo agreement. Only a miracle can salvage the deteriorating process and get it back on track.

In fact, the December 10 Nobel Peace Prize award ceremony may provide the final scene in the theater of the absurd which the dying process has become. The optimism and euphoria which swept many in both the Israeli and Palestinian camps have turned into harsh disappointment.

The failure of the process is the handiwork of extremists on both sides. To make the process succeed, the following would have been needed:

● Courageous decisions reflecting the wishes of a majority on each side, not trepidation and fear of confronting the predictable opposition.

● Maintaining momentum, making rapid progress, and showing immediate achievements, instead of the drawn-out, wearying negotiations over every detail of every future step.

● And finally, what was needed was a radical change of style, attitude, and conduct, which the new situation demanded. What happened, in fact, was an automatic insistence on sticking to everything the two sides had said or done earlier, in some forced attempt to bend new realities to the axioms of the past.

The failure of the Oslo process doesn't necessarily mean turning the clock back to the status quo ante. It is impossible to erase the psychological and political meaning of what was achieved 14 months ago: Israel's recognition of the PLO and the Palestinians as a legitimate national movement, and the Palestinian recognition of Israel's right to exist and its security requirements.

The first lesson to be learned from Oslo "One" is the value of secret diplomacy. There can be no progress when every meeting is reported in advance and every encounter becomes another move in the political and media campaigns.

Only meetings on an alternative, secret, track, one free of political pressures, can clarify the positions of the Israeli and Palestinian leaderships, identify gaps where these exist, and come up with implementable steps.

Once such agreements are reached, they can be submitted to the political bodies and the public on both sides.

The second lesson, based on the negative experience of Oslo One, is twofold: An interim agreement

cannot work unless the ultimate objective is defined (even if it's kept vague - and at this stage, it must be).

Then, to advance through "package deals," both sides must know what they are giving and, equally important, what they will be getting.

What would the parameters of such deals be? (I'm sure that a great variety of suggestions can be proposed.)

On defining the objective: A majority of Israelis know that the process will end in a sovereign Palestinian state. So let's spell it out now.

On a possible package: The format of Oslo should be changed so that the IDF isn't required to redeploy outside the Palestinian population centers before elections are held. At the same time, general elections, including a mechanism for Jerusalem's Arabs to vote and be elected, should be held as soon as possible.

Certainly, progress will not be made unless we stop deluding ourselves that the Oslo agreement is still valid and applicable; and unless we make a rigorous study of why the agreement failed - and, especially, what each party contributed to that failure.

The writer, a former IDF intelligence chief, is a senior research fellow of the Jaffee Center for Strategic Research at Tel Aviv University.

THE ONLY way to move ahead with the process is a rigorous post mortem

Nor can the developments and changes that evolved from the Oslo agreement be reversed. Two such developments were the departure of the IDF and the Israeli administration from most of the Gaza Strip and the Jericho salient; and the revolutionary change in Israel's overall relations with many countries in the region, including, of course, the peace agreement with Jordan.

THIS IS not the place to deal with why the Oslo agreement failed. But without a deep and sincere analysis of those causes, we cannot move ahead.

The biggest, most dangerous mistake would be for each side to retreat into its corner and take the

longer wanted the coveted culinary accolade.

Alexander Koene said he and his staff were proud to have held the award but had grown weary of living up to the French guide's exacting standards.

"We don't want the star. We're not interested in it any more," Koene said from his Bistro 28 restaurant in Den Bosch.

Koene had changed the Bistro 28's fare to simpler and cheaper food, which he said he hoped would draw more local customers.

THIS IS the depths to which human nature can go: in an attempt

to cash in on the O.J. Simpson murder trial, a Louisiana root beer manufacturer is promoting a new game based on controversial DNA testing at the center of the case.

Barq's Root Beer announced the game in which consumers scratch cards with concealed DNA samples and compare it to an exposed DNA sample printed on the card. If the two samples - a series of dots similar to how results of DNA tests are shown - do not match, the player wins. If they match, the player loses. The game's grand prize is a "Get Out of the Country" trip to Ixtapa, Mexico.

POSTSCRIPTS

FAMOUS PLASTERER Walter Swan has died.

Swan exchanged his trowel for a keyboard and then founded the One Book Bookstore to sell one book and one book only, a compilation of stories about his life on a ranch during the Depression of the 1930s.

He created a tourist institution selling his life's work in the former copper mining town of Bisbee, Arizona.

His book, *me 'n Henry*, consists of stories he told his eight children about life with his older brother. It includes such wisdom as: "No matter how bad a situation gets, don't

ever give up. Just try that much harder."

After his book was rejected by several publishers, he and his wife, Deloris, bought a computer and published it themselves in 1988, selling more than 24,000 copies at the One Book Bookstore.

The couple turned out other collections of stories and recipes. Rather than change the character of their One Book Bookstore, they sold them in another shop, the Other Book Bookstore.

THE OWNER of a Dutch restaurant which has held a Michelin star for the last 11 years said he no

There are no guarantees on the Golan

ARIEL SHARON

THE government's demand that a 1,000-strong US observer force be stationed on the Golan isn't an issue of US credibility. Such a demand is unrealistic, even impossible. It does nothing to enhance our security and could, ultimately, embarrass the US.

In the effort to persuade the public that Israel can withdraw from the Golan because the US will defend us there, our leaders are putting the country in danger and US troops at risk.

If they came to any harm, Israel would get blamed, and the force, justifiably, would be pulled out.

Prime Minister Rabin, who seems to "fall in love" every so often with the late Menachem Begin, has been trying to draw a parallel between Begin's agreement to an American observer force in the Sinai and his own plan for the Golan. It may be easy to tout decisions of a leader who can no longer respond, but there is no comparison between the two situations.

In Sinai, the US force is a political symbol. At most, it's a kind of tripwire. Security arrangements in the Sinai rely on a demilitarized, unpopulated desert, 200 km. deep.

The Sinai arrangement is also based on the bulk of the Egyptian army remaining beyond the Suez Canal and the IDF's ability to enter Sinai from the east. In the event of any problem in the Sinai and the Egyptians re-entering it, our army would come in from the opposite direction, and the two forces would meet in the middle of a desert.

Even if the Egyptians reached our border, Israel's existence wouldn't be threatened. Such a development would represent a danger, but the southern border is far from the heart of the country.

ON THE Golan, none of these conditions hold — nor do any similar conditions.

The Golan has no depth. Its maximum width is 20 km. In the event of a Syrian attack, any IDF counteraction would meet the Syrians not on the plateau, but in the heart of eastern Galilee or at best on the border.

Topographically, Israel would be in a very inferior position, with the Syrians above, and the IDF below.

To climb those heights again would be possible only at a terrible cost.

And the Syrians on the international boundary would be right next to one of Israel's most essential and critical areas: its water sources. Eastern Galilee is heavily

populated, and part of the heart of the country.

I think it was Henry Kissinger — and he knows the Middle East — who said "Give me 100 miles of desert, and I'll give you an agreement like the one with Egypt."

Clearly, what protects Israel vis-à-vis Egypt are the geographic and topographic conditions; the only true guarantee is the combination of the desert, the Suez Canal, and the capabilities of the IDF. The first two of these are absent in the Golan. Just making the comparison between the two situations is highly irresponsible and misleading.

American troops stationed on the Heights would be putting themselves in danger, not serving Israel's security

The US, it must be recalled, stationed marines west of Beirut in 1982. And Washington's envoy Philip Habib, who was very pleased about this, dismissed warnings that the terrorist shantytowns of Sabra, Shatilla and Fakhani still contained at least 2,000 armed terrorists. And within a year a single car bomb killed more than 250 marines, ending the American presence in Lebanon.

Who will guarantee against the rise of some organization called "For the Liberation of the Golan" which will cause American casualties? After all, we live in a region where "human suicide bombs" are commonplace.

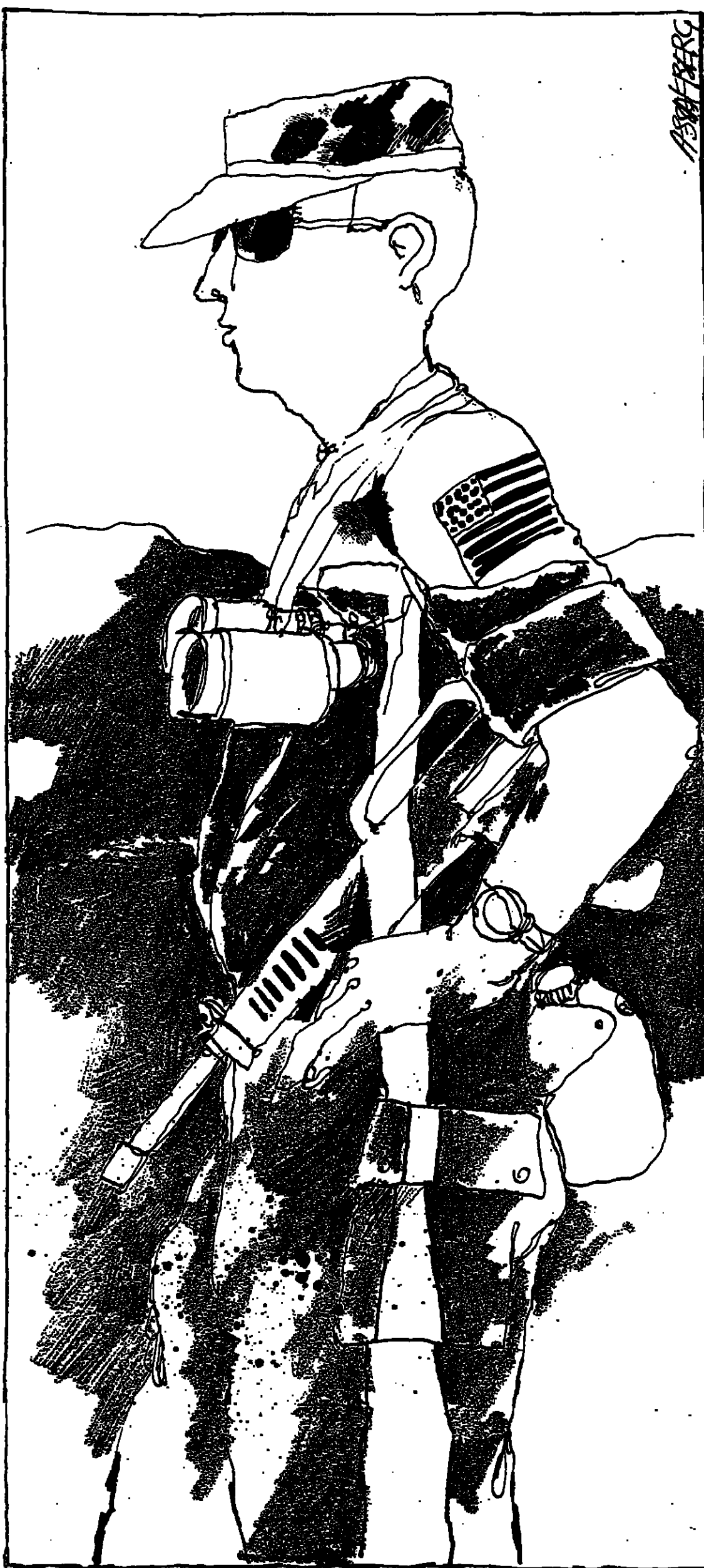
The dangers are infinite. What would 1,000 Americans be doing on the Golan other than putting themselves in danger?

If, for any reason, political changes in Egypt or in US strategy led to the withdrawal of American troops from the Sinai, it would be serious politically, but Israel would have a military answer.

But it would have no real response if the Americans withdrew or were expelled from the Golan. It is therefore vital for any security arrangement on the Golan to be based on a viable Israeli force, deployed behind the enormous man-made obstacles we have constructed.

As it is everywhere else, the responsibility for Israel's security in the Golan would be ours, and ours alone.

The writer, a Likud MK, is a former defense minister.



A friend to rely on

ABBA EBAN

THERE is good reason to believe that if a peace treaty is concluded between Israel and Syria, the United States will help to provide an adequate monitoring system. To predict anything else is to believe that the new US Congress leadership will be less supportive of Israel's security than its predecessors. There is no basis for this appraisal.

An attack of jitters whenever new leaders take responsibility in any sector of American power is a part of Israeli folklore. But there has been more continuity than vacillation in the conduct of American diplomacy. The decision of the Israeli electorate to give its government a mandate for innovation, compromise and peace has done more than anything else to consolidate the American-Israeli alliance.

Jitters aside, Israel's leaders have reason to believe the US will help monitor peace with Syria

Beyond the US-Israeli relationship, the peace process has sent Israel's international prestige expanding right and left to include a widening sector of the Arab world. It will not be easy for Syria, Saudi Arabia and other Arab states to stay permanently outside the magnetic field.

The consequence is that Israel is fated to live within the paradox of coexistence between auguries of hope and a reality of daily grief. The Israeli opponents of the peace process are virtually suggesting that we give up the hope without being able to avoid the grief.

In the final resort, the probability that Israel and Syria will ultimately reach an agreement is greater than the likelihood of a return to the previous savage hostility.

If this prognosis is correct, the effort of a self-appointed Israeli lobby to undermine a common foreign policy aim of America, and Israel is going to fail. Concentration on the marginal monitoring issue before a treaty is even in sight does no credit to the politicians and media who have developed this lopsided "priority."

The only certainty is that the US is not engaged in a feverish rush to abandon success stories, and the multilateral force in Sinai is one of these.

Senator Dole would be more inclined to favor US participation if it were within a UN framework. This should cause no difficulty for the Israeli negotiators, since this was the original intention of Anwar Sadat and Menachem Begin in 1977-9.

The Egyptian-Israeli treaty does

not contain a single word about "American troops." It does accord wide-ranging activities to a UN body that is forbidden to move out, except with the unanimous approval of all the permanent members of the Security Council (I have good personal reason to remember my description of the UN force in Sinai in 1967 as "a fire brigade that runs away at the first whiff of smoke").

ALTHOUGH a hostile UN rejected the Begin-Sadat invitation to carry out monitoring services for Egypt and Israel, the two leaders had recourse to a group of governments, headed by the US.

The multilateral force has worked for 14 years without sustaining casualties. US legislators are not likely to be frightened by predictions of physical danger among personnel who would be welcome guests in Syria.

If Americans were apprehensive about such risks, the US would be effectively renouncing any serious role in the world community.

The success of the Multilateral Force and Observers in Sinai, with their delicate task of monitoring overflights, remind us that there is no validity in the platitudes about "a mere piece of paper" as against "concrete territorial assets."

The peace treaty as pioneered by Begin and Sadat did not leave us with a mere "piece of paper," but with a subtle and sophisticated complex of balances, limitations of forces and intercommunication agreements.

These provisions, together with Israel's strategic power, could be a stronger assurance of non-aggression than the unrecognized "annexation" boundary. The allegedly ideal boundary of 1973 (similar to the present one) did more to invite war than to deter it.

Israel's interest is that all neighboring states should be strong enough to resist aggression themselves — and vulnerable enough not to commit aggression against others. Syria fulfills this definition.

The Egyptian treaty reminds us that Menachem Begin has left Rabin with an embarrassing heritage.

Israel agreed at Camp David "to withdraw all its armed forces behind the international boundary" and, in the next breath, invited all the other parties to this dispute to be guided by the Egyptian parallel in their own peacemaking!

For obvious geographic reasons, Rabin and Foreign Minister Peres are striving for a more cautious commitment to Syria's Hafez Assad than Begin gave Sadat.

That Camp David text was not finally in a position to assail our present government for grappling hard with the dilemmas that their predecessor left unresolved.

The writer is a former foreign minister.

Limitation is a part of the encounter with God

"God is everywhere, and not limited to a given space. Wholeness cannot be isolated." (Yaacov Agam, artist. The Jerusalem Post, November 25, 1994).

"Can God truly be confined to earth? Even the heavens to their uttermost reaches cannot contain You — certainly not this Temple which I have built!" (Solomon, king of Israel, 1 Kings 8:27).

It is remarkable how two men could utter nearly identical statements about the concept of sacred space, and yet with such dissimilar intent.

In "Sacred space for the 21st century," Yaacov Agam takes God's omnipresence as a license to do away with the ark of the synagogue, while dispersing the Torah scrolls throughout the sanctuary. This, he claims, would express "the idea that God's glory fills the universe."

Agam's proposal implies a view of God as accessible equally, everywhere, and with no limitations.

Solomon himself proclaimed God's omnipresence. But the Temple that he built was a pointed expression that access to God is limited. His presence is to be most manifest at a single geographic point — the Temple.

Agam, one of the most acclaimed Jewish artists of our time, makes several comments in his piece that appeal to the liberal ear, but in fact run counter to the classical Jewish vision of sacred space.

The first lesson on sacred space offered us by the Bible is at the burning bush (Exodus 3:2-6). It is here that the term *admat kodsh* — literally, sacred space — appears for the first time.

Moses' encounter at that site is permeated by a spirit of limitation.

God bids him to come no closer. Moses goes further and hides his face. Sacred space, the encounter with the divine, mandates limitation.

The omnipresence of God is not to be interpreted as unlimited access to Him. The illustration of the burning bush shows us that God is transcendent, and that the closer one comes to Him, the more the encounter must be limited.

Unlimited access to God diminishes that sense of awe and mystery.

WHY ARE the Torah scrolls centralized in the ark? The ark of the synagogue is a representation of the Ark of the Covenant in the Temple, which bore the tablets received by Moses at Sinai.

One can imagine the Agam temple atop Mount Moriah, a great Plexiglas prism in which the tablets are on public display in a great receiving chamber subliminally aglow with the aura of a halogen spotlight.

In fact, the tablets situated in the ark in the Holy of Holies were in a permanent state of "not on display." Only the High Priest, on Yom Kippur, could enter this chamber; and even then, he was not permitted to open the ark and observe the tablets.

The Torah scrolls enclosed in the ark of the synagogue and behind the curtain underscore this sense of transcendence and limited access.

Agam's theology of community in the synagogue is likewise ignorant of classical Jewish views on the subject. In prayer, he posits, it is unseemly to face the back of someone's else's head (Agam should be thankful he was born a Jew, and not a Moslem).

He proposes that we furnish our

JOSHUA BERMAN

sanctuaries with seats that rotate 360 degrees. This, he argues, would enable us at any one time to

Agam's synagogue appeals to the liberal mind, but runs counter to the classical Jewish idea of sacred space

face different people, constantly creating different community groups.

To be sure, the notion of community is integral to the synagogue service, as is evident in the term *beit knesser* — a house of gathering.

But Agam's ideal of sub-communities within the synagogue is alien to the tradition.

Sub-communities have their place. We create them through lectures, by participating in community service projects, and around the Shabbat table.

But when we enter the synagogue, the community formed is something more than the sum total of the congregants present. The synagogue congregation is a representation of the entire Jewish people. The verses that the Talmud (*Megilla* 23b) employs to derive the concept of *minyan* (the quorum of 10 men needed for communal prayer) all speak of the entire Jewish people.

This is why most of the prayer service is in the plural, expressing the impulses of the entire House of Israel, and not of individual persons or groups.

When we pray and can see only

the backs of other heads in prayer, the anonymity underscores the sense of connection to a much larger whole.

Agam's parlor stools, promoting shared glances between a small number of worshipers, can only serve to detract from the sense of the larger community of Israel.

An artist who claims that his work represents impulses within a religious tradition has an obligation to represent that tradition faithfully.

Agam's prisms should be expressing an enlightened grasp of tradition, rather than bending the ideology amid a play of refracted light.

The writer, a lecturer at the Nishmat Institute, is the author of *The Temple: Its Symbolism and Meaning Then and Now*, to be published next summer.

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

A8

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1994

Foreign currency reserves fall by \$309m.

FOREIGN currency reserves fell by \$309 million last month despite the \$700m. in US loan guarantees the government raised.

The Bank of Israel reported yesterday that the reserves were \$6.689 billion at the end of November.

The outflow of about \$1b. from the reserves was due primarily to the payment of interest on government borrowings and principal repayments abroad. In addition, commercial banks deposited abroad some of their freed up foreign currency which previously served as reserve deposits in the central banks.

The Bank of Israel recently lowered the banks' liquidity require-

JOSE ROSENFELD

ments on foreign currency accounts.

Total foreign currency trading was \$3.454b. last month, with two-sided transactions with commercial banks making up 73.1% of foreign currency transactions.

The basket of foreign currencies lost 0.9% against the shekel last month and gained 6.37% against the local currency since the beginning of the year. By contrast, the shekel lost 0.73% against the dollar last month, losing 1.65% since the beginning of the year. At the end of last month, the currency basket exchange rate stood 1.16%

below the "crawling peg's" midpoint.

The state budget registered a NIS 663m. deficit in November, the Treasury reported yesterday.

Expenditures were NIS 7.103b., while revenues totaled NIS 6.44b. The government also borrowed NIS 185m. in the capital market.

Since the beginning of the year, the state budget has run a deficit of NIS 530m. or NIS 1.1b., excluding credit. The government has budgeted a NIS 6.6b. deficit this year.

During the first 11 months of the year, government spending reached NIS 73.3b. and revenues totaled NIS 72.7b.

Israel Chemicals earnings up 54%

RACHEL NEIMAN

ISRAEL Chemicals has announced a 54% rise in third quarter net profits for 1994, to \$15.6 million from \$10.15m. for the same period last year.

Revenues were also up, to \$322m. from \$270.4m. Earnings per share were \$0.013 as compared with \$0.008.

Net profits for the nine-month period were \$34.25m. as compared with \$30.5m., on revenues of \$908.4m. from \$797.8m. in 1993.

Earnings per share were \$0.029 as compared with \$0.025.

ICL said the positive results for the three and nine month periods resulted from a general recovery which had not been expressed in the first quarter.

During October and November, a gradual rise in demand and prices of fertilizers and some chemicals was noted. Sales of

chemicals rose some 10% in the nine month period. A 15% rise in the price of potash and a 30% rise in the price of phosphoric acid were noted towards the end of the three-quarter period.

A total of \$240m. was invested in research and development costs during the January-September period as compared with \$225m. in 1993. This includes the cost of set-

ting up ICL's new power station in Sdom.

ICL also said it was stepping up activity in the field of pharmaceuticals. Following share purchases made during the reported nine month period, the company now owns 20% of US-based Supergen.

In addition, the board of directors has purchased rights to an early cancer detection method and to its development.

Capital gains tax isn't such a bad idea

COMMENT

NEIL COHEN

THE drama surrounding the stock market tax has better resembled a TV mini-series than the usually dry world of tax legislation, as big businesses and big gamblers have given their last shot at trying to halt the measure.

Left-wing politicians and commentators who welcomed the tax have now taken fright at the popular resentment of it. Fearful for their mandates, they tried to persuade the finance minister to back away from what they perceive as an election loser. The Likud grabbed the opportunity, saying they would repeal the tax if elected.

Banking leaders have not fallen over themselves to cooperate with a tax that does their industry no favors. To expect them to collect the tax also adds insult to injury.

What is surprising is that so many people

have been so angered by a relatively small tax, while they seem so unperturbed by the taxes on purchases, income, and non-stock market capital gains. When did someone last file a petition to the High Court of Justice against the 128%-144% duty we pay on cars?

Beyond the government's clumsiness in imposing the tax, there is little out of the ordinary about what has gone on in the markets of late. Cheap credit abandoned, companies raised money - which they often squandered - like it was going out of fashion. But then inflation rose and suddenly the music stopped. The big

bad Bank of Israel raised interest rates and people started rushing out of the stock market. Sounds familiar? It should. It has happened in the US and the UK many times before. But then inflation came under control, interest rates came down, the economy picked up again, and people came pouring back into the stock market. In Israel, people blame the government because they gambled and lost. Investors should also be reminded that while the TASE has slumped of late, it has still gained hundreds of percent since 1988.

The problem with the stock market tax is not the tax per se. It is the fact that the Treasury rushed out with an ill-thought-out proposal, which even when modified was as full of holes as your average Swiss cheese.

Study: Pension funds don't need subsidized bonds to be balanced

JOSE ROSENFELD

PENSION funds do not need government-subsidized bonds to become actuarially balanced, according to a Bank of Israel research paper published yesterday.

The research, authored by Prof. Aviya Spivak, states that the pension fund crisis stems primarily from the granting of overly generous benefits to members.

Spivak's contention is supported by Supervisor of the Capital

Market and Insurance Meir Shavit, who says that about 36% of the pension funds' NIS 36 billion actuarial deficit comes from the discrepancy between the benefits promised and actual contributions.

The funds can be actuarially balanced even if they invest member contributions in government index-linked bonds with a market

rate of 3.5%. Currently pension funds receive special non-tradeable bonds bearing above-market rates of between 5.5% and 6%.

According to the Treasury, the yearly interest rate subsidy costs taxpayers about NIS 800 million.

Spivak stipulates that individuals would have to start to make pension contributions at a young age for the funds to reach actuarial balance.

Elta third-quarter profits increase to \$10.8m.

COMPANY RESULTS

RACHEL NEIMAN

ELTA has announced net profits of \$10.8m. for the nine-month period of 1994, as compared with \$7.3m. for the same period, on revenues of \$195.4m. as compared with \$192.9m.

Subsidiary Elta Electronics has announced net profits of NIS 8.5m. as compared with NIS 3.7m., on revenues of NIS 145.7m. as compared with NIS 178.1m. Earnings per share more than doubled at NIS 0.16 as compared with NIS 0.07 in 1993.

El-Rav has announced net profits of NIS 13.4m. for the three-month period ending September 1994, as compared with NIS 2.2m., on revenues of NIS 124.1m. as compared with NIS 12.7m. Earnings per share were NIS 1.35 as compared with NIS 0.24.

Meir Ezra has posted a third-quarter net loss of NIS 887,000 as compared with NIS 2.9m., on revenues of NIS 72.7m. as compared with NIS 55.8m.

Meir Ezra had a net loss of NIS 4m. for the three-quarter period, as compared with NIS 11.1m., on revenues of

NIS 237.5m. as compared with NIS 124.1m.

Dubek has reported a 70 percent drop in net profits for the third quarter of 1994, at NIS 875,000, as compared with NIS 3m., on revenues of NIS 59.8m. as compared with NIS 66.9m. Earnings per share were NIS 0.86 as compared with NIS 2.96.

Ormat has posted a drop in quarterly net profits to NIS 1.2m. as compared with NIS 7.4m., on increased revenues of NIS 76m. as compared with NIS 46.5m. Earnings per share fell to NIS 0.13 as compared with NIS 0.16.

Zar Shamir completed the third quarter of the year with a net profit of NIS 575,000 from a net loss of NIS 63,000 in the corresponding period last year. In the first nine months of the year, net losses rose to NIS 1.26m. from a net loss of NIS 2,000 in the corresponding period last year.

Eshed Robotec has reported net losses for the third period of NIS 467,000 as compared with net losses of NIS 199,000, on revenues of NIS 8.9m. as compared with NIS 8.5m.

Genentech case against BTG dropped by US panel

RACHEL NEIMAN

GENENTECH's case against Bio-Technology General has been dismissed with prejudice by the US International Trade Commission (ITC). Biotechnology pioneer Genentech had tried to prohibit BTG's import of human growth hormone into the US.

In March 1993, Genentech filed a complaint with the ITC, alleging that BTG had violated sections of the Tariff Act of 1930 because of the existence of certain claims in Genentech's US patents. A similar complaint was filed against pharmaceutical giant Novo Nordisk, regarding its human growth hormone product. Genentech also moved for a temporary exclusion order of BTG products, which was

denied by the ITC in February of 1994.

BTG says it brought to the attention of the ITC administrative law judge "additional evidence" which had come to light in Genentech's protracted litigation with the Eli Lilly Company, involving human growth hormone. BTG (Israel) General Manager David Haselkorn said part of the evidence was still confidential and currently under review by attorneys and the judge.

The judge further decided that Genentech's complaint violated ITC rules, resulting in an incomplete record and violation of both BTG and Novo Nordisk's rights to due process.

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WORLD MARKET REPORTS

The yield curve of the US T-bond market is flattening, as the long end holds onto the 8% yield level, while the shorter maturities are vulnerable to expectations that the Federal Reserve may act early to increase interest rates again. At the short end, there is also evidence of portfolio liquidation by the commercial banks ahead of the end-December book closing. The US economy remains strong and thus interest rates will go higher. Investors are awaiting employment data today.

The rally in the US equity market does not seem convincing. The market has become narrow and selective again. Investors are largely bearish and this often gives scope for a rally, but the usual strong year-end performance is less likely.

The UK Budget was good for UK gilts, but this was largely discounted. The Budget should also support sterling, as it highlighted the good fundamentals of the UK economy in comparison to other western developed countries. The UK FT-SE 100 Index has been struggling towards 3100, but is not being driven by any volume. It is dependent on Wall Street and the gilt market. It is to rise above 3100. We have seen buying interest in Williams Holdings PLC (351p), following an excellent acquisition and good trading statement.

In the Asia-Pacific Region, the Hong Kong market is expected to rebound, but the upside appears limited. There are sellers awaiting for just such a rally, and foreign funds are still looking to unload property stocks. In Kuala Lumpur, the KLCI fell through 1000 after showing resilience above that level for two weeks. Any rally will have to contend with resistance at 1020 and 1040. There is support at 970. In Singapore, the STH is also under pressure. While there is support at 2200, the upside looks limited to 2270. These markets are dominated by the fortunes of Wall Street.

Gold bullion has weakened towards the US\$380/oz. support level. If this does not hold, a decline to the key \$375 level is indicated. South African gold shares are reflecting the weakness in bullion, but also we have seen redemptions of US gold mutual funds leading to selling pressure on the shares.

Any information contained herein should not be construed in any way as a public offering.

2% of mutual funds show positive results

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

ONLY two percent of all mutual funds achieved positive real yields in October, when the capital market was characterized by relatively low trading, the Meitav Consultancy Firm reported yesterday.

Meitav reported that six of the 279 funds achieved real yields of more than 1%, the predicted rise in the Consumer Price Index for October. Since the start of the year, all of the mutual funds achieved negative real yields.

The mutual fund's general share index decreased 6.4% last month. Meitav said the capital market was influenced by a number of factors in October, including the Knesset's final approval of the bourse tax law, freezing of the peace process and rise in interest rates.

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Commercial Rand/£	5.547	5.557	0.18%
Interest rates:			
Money Market (BAs)	12.40%	12.35%	0.40%
Escom 2008	15.62%	15.74%	-0.76%
Escom 1020	16.62%	16.92%	-1.77%
RSA 150	15.60%	15.61%	-0.06%
Prices: UTI:			
OM Investors	42.8391	43.5940	-1.73%
(buy) Escom 168	70.42516	69.89832	0.75%
Guardbank	36.8881	37.6432	-2.01%
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JSE Actuaries Overall	5.749	5.909	-2.71%
*RY - running yield			

Comments: The gold price plunged on the JSE following a weaker gold price, while the Rand firmed to R4.14 to the US dollar. The rate of consumer inflation fell slightly, after hitting 10.1% in October. Expectations are for this rate to increase over the coming months, and to reach between 10% to 15% over the next year, as the pace of the economy eases. Economists expressed alarm at the rate increase in the money supply, which rose to 14.6%, and the alarming credit extended to the government and the private sector. The National Institute for Economic Policy recommended that "affluent South Africans must be warned off things like cellular phones, foreign travel and fast food, if the reconstruction and development programme is to succeed."

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HAIFA

WHAT'S ON IN HAIFA, dial 04-374253.

ARTGUIDE

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JERUSALEM

Museums

OLD YISHUV COURT MUSEUM. Life in the Jewish Community in the Old City, mid-19th century - World War II. 6 Or Haim, Jewish Quarter, Old City. Sun-Thur. 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

WOLFSON MUSEUM, HEICHAL SHLOMO. Special Hanukkah Exhibition. Hours: 9-1, Sun-Thur.

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EMERGENCY PHARMACIES

Friday, December 2

Jerusalem: Kupat Holim Clalit, Straus A, 3 Avigdor, 706880, Balam, Sela, 40108; 272315; Shuafl, Shuafl Road, 810108; Tel Aviv: Hero's Gate, 292058; Tel Aviv: Peter Market, 61 Yehuda Hayamit, Jaffa, 6822973; Barak, 109 Jabotinsky, 6046882.

Ra'anana-Kfar Sava: Avner Gild, 34 Weizmann, Kfar Sava, 426826.

Netanya: Harasli, 36 Weizmann, 826399.

Kiryat area: Harman, 4 Simat Modin, Kiryat Motzkin, 7077703.

Haifa: Peviner, 27 Peviner, 621073.

Herzliya: Clal Pharm, Beit Merkazim, 6 Masli (civ. Sderot Hagalim), Herzliya Pituah, 558472, 558407. Open 9 a.m. to midnight.

Upper Nazareth: Clal Pharm, Lev Ha'ir Mall, 570468. Open 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Saturday, December 3

Jerusalem: (day) Super Pharm, Gilco commercial center, 761873; (evening) Center Pharm, Har Hahotzvim, 889744; (day and evening) Balam, Sela, 40108; Dar Shuafl, Shuafl Road, 810108; Tel Aviv: Hero's Gate, 292058; Tel Aviv: Peter Market, 61 Yehuda Hayamit, Jaffa, 6822973; Barak, 109 Jabotinsky, 6046882.

Ra'anana-Kfar Sava: (day) Shuali, A. Yaffa, Ra'anana, 451114; (evening) Barlan, 29 Barlan, Ra'anana, 443573.

Netanya: Clal Pharm, 60 Binjamin, 826081.

Kiryat area: Harman, 4 Simat Modin, Kiryat Motzkin, 7077703.

Haifa: Masada, 30 Masada, 655806.

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Upper Nazareth: Clal Pharm, Lev Ha'ir Mall, 570468. Open 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.

DUTY HOSPITALS

Friday, December 2

Jerusalem: Shaare Zedek (internal); Hadassah Ein Karem (surgery, orthopedics, obstetrics, ophthalmology, ENT); Bikur Holim (pediatrics); ENT; Bikur Holim (pediatrics). In case of heart attack, attempted resuscitation, snake bite or scorpion sting, go immediately to nearest hospital. Tel Aviv: Tel Aviv Medical Center (pediatrics, internal), Ichilov (surgery). Netanya: Laniado.

Saturday, December 3

Jerusalem: Hadassah Ein Karem (internal, surgery, orthopedics, ophthalmology, ENT); Bikur Holim (obstetrics); Shaare Zedek (pediatrics). In case of heart attack, attempted resuscitation, snake bite or scorpion sting, go immediately to nearest hospital. Tel Aviv: Tel Aviv Medical Center (pediatrics), Ichilov (internal, surgery). Netanya: Laniado.

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100

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102

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Kfar Sava: 03-911111
Be'er Sheva: 274767
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Close race for top in local soccer

WEATHER permitting, the fight for supremacy in the National League continues this weekend. With just one point dividing the top seven challengers, the current soccer season is rapidly shaping into one of the most intriguing title battles in years. An anticipated winners' Toto kitty of over NIS 12 million adds extra interest to the action.

Betar Jerusalem finished at the summit in the last round on goal difference thanks to a narrow win against Ironi Ashdod, while other leading teams stumbled in a pile of surprise results. At the end of round 4 the Betar occupied last place, and their current position is testimony to a spirited fightback.

Betar's Ronnen Harazi scored in the National team's 4-3 victory over Cyprus in midweek and will

be aiming to move up the scorer's ratings at the expense of his club's opponent Maccabi Netanya.

Second-place meets fourth-place in the match-up between Hapoel Petah Tikva and Bnei Yehuda.

Maccabi Tel Aviv, nestling in third place, takes on bottom club Maccabi Herzliya. The Tel Avivians suffered a shock defeat at the hands of Hapoel Beit She'an last Saturday, but are likely to prove too hardy for the Herzliyans. The seadiders will be seeking to impress new coach Ze'ev Zeltzer who moved to the club in midweek just 48 hours after leaving Ironi Ashdod following a fallout with the board.

Maccabi Haifa looked more like

its old self, as it made mincemeat of Bnei Yehuda in a thrilling 3-1 away win last weekend. The Haifaites aim to give Rishon LeZion a good grilling at Kiryat Eliezer tomorrow. The return of Roman Petz has given the champions more solidity at the back in recent weeks, and Sergei Kandaurov is beginning to make his presence felt again.

Hapoel Tel Aviv faltered on its last outing. Moshe Sinai's men have a chance to make amends against tailenders Zefirun Holon this afternoon.

Non-partisan fans are unlikely to find very much interest in the mid-table meeting between Betar Tel Aviv and Maccabi Petah Tikva, however the duel between

strugglers Ironi Ashdod and Hapoel Haifa will at least have a bearing on the tailend of the soccer table.

Hapoel Beersheba's fixture against Hapoel Beit She'an completes the weekend program. Beit She'an created waves last Saturday with its convincing win over Maccabi Tel Aviv in moonsoon conditions, while the Negev side threw away a two-goal lead on its way to a defeat at the hands of Hapoel Haifa.

This weekend's National League fixtures (kick off 14:30 tomorrow unless otherwise stated): Zefirun Holon vs. Hapoel Tel Aviv; Holon, 14:30; Maccabi Netanya vs. Betar Jerusalem, Netanya; Hapoel Petah Tikva vs. Bnei Yehuda, Petah Tikva; Hapoel Beersheba vs. Hapoel Beit She'an, Beersheba; Betar Tel Aviv vs. Maccabi Petah Tikva; Bloomfield; Ironi Ashdod vs. Hapoel Haifa; Ashdod; Maccabi Haifa vs. Rishon LeZion; Kiryat Eliezer, 16:00; Maccabi Tel Aviv vs. Maccabi Herzliya, Bloomfield, 16:30.

Navratilova didn't only fight on court

MARTINA Navratilova retired last month from the world of tennis.

She left a champion, and not just on the tennis court.

It is difficult enough for anyone to lead an unconventional life. As difficult as it is for men to do so, it is virtually impossible for women. Unconventionality used to spell death, banishment or ruin for women. Today, it can still mean disgrace, disfavor or derision.

Yet Navratilova has managed to lead an unconventional life without self-destructing. She was a powerhouse of a tennis player.

She is also a lesbian. In a male-dominated, homophobic society, that is not an easy thing to be. But Navratilova has seemed to take it all in stride: The tabloid headlines that called her a home wrecker when she ran off with a Texas housewife; the equally lurid headlines several years later that chronicled the messy palimony suit when the relationship ended.

She survived the snide comments about the "dykes" in the world of professional tennis, comments and commentary that made headlines in the 1970s and 1980s, when women were looking for parity in the sport, and their sexual orientation became the issue instead, first with Billie Jean King and then with Navratilova.

But, as with King, Navratilova just outplayed the critics, her virtuosity offered as adequate proof for why there ought to be parity in the purses offered to female tennis players. Some of us may not remember it, but Navratilova was one of the trailblazers in women's tennis and in women's sports.

She held her place for years as the premier women's tennis player, and has managed to age gracefully as younger competitors began to beat her, still strong enough and smart enough to win a few major matches and keep her tennis star alive.

In the 1970s, she defected from the oppression of a Communist Czechoslovakia to compete freely in her sport as a citizen of the world. At 19 she left family and



INSPIRED - Martina Navratilova waves to the crowd in New York during her final tournament last month.

the world she'd known to be a serious competitor.

She has lived in the public spotlight, but has somehow remained herself, a woman to be admired for her integrity, strength and courage in living her life her way.

As we have seen with so many celebrities, male and female, this is no easy thing to do.

When I think of what it takes to make a champion, I list great heart, a sense of vision and of mission, and the discipline and endurance to achieve the goals you've set, even if it takes years.

Navratilova has all those qualities and has managed to use them to achieve her goals, often in an environment that has been openly

challenging and hostile. Her personal life has been a journey, difficult at times, but one from which she keeps learning.

But it is because she has had the courage to be herself, and not the girl next door, that she has become a heroine and a role model for women who may want to chart a course of their own, but are afraid to do so.

Perhaps her parting gift, as she leaves the stage of world tennis, is a reminder of what is possible when a woman puts her mind - and heart - to something, and lets no one deter her.

It is this kind of consistent performance that may yet win her game, set and match on life's court. (Agencies)

Baseball owners buy time

LEESBURG, Va. (AP) - Major League Baseball owners agreed Wednesday to delay imposing a ceiling on players' salaries, a move which permits both sides more time to negotiate an end to the sport's three-month-old strike.

The two sides agreed to resume bargaining December 9.

The proposed salary cap is at the center of the baseball strike, which began August 12. Owners want to place a limit on the amount of money teams can spend on player salaries. The players' union wants to retain the current system, which permits players to negotiate individual contracts, often for very high salaries.

Owners, who had scheduled a Major League meeting for Monday to impose the salary cap, decided instead to postpone their session until December 15 or 16, management negotiator John Harrington said.

"I've asked the owners to withdraw their threat of implementation and they've agreed to do that," said the league's federally-appointed mediator, W.J. Ueary.

With the postponement, bargaining will resume in nine days at Kye Brook, New York. The players' union executive board, which meets in Atlanta next Monday-Wednesday, will attempt to formulate a counterproposal to a luxury tax plan owners offered November 17.

If there is no agreement by the time owners

Rush regains scoring touch

Hat-trick propels Liverpool past Blackburn 3-1 in League Cup

LONDON (AP) — Liverpool fans, take heart. Ian Rush has rediscovered his scoring touch.

After a drought of seven games without a goal, the Welshman scored three times in Liverpool's 3-1 victory over Premier League leaders Blackburn in the League Cup on Wednesday night.

Rush's hat-trick came in his 600th appearance for Liverpool and brought his career total with the club to 329 goals. Of those, 46 have come in the League Cup, just three short of Geoff Hurst's all-time record.

Blackburn striker Mike Newell led the accolades for the 33-year-old Rush.

"I've watched Rushie as a Liverpool fan and he's just a born scorer," he said. "What he did out there was a lesson in finishing for all of us. He's showed again that you can never write him off. He's proved over the last 10 years that he's the No. 1 striker in the country."

Rush said he was just happy to have ended his scoring slump.

"When you're not scoring you've got to battle your way through it," he said. "Even though I've not scored for a while, I've had two or three disallowed when I didn't think I was offside but you've got to accept that you will go through those spells."

Rush hopes he can replicate his League Cup heroics when Liverpool plays at Coventry tomorrow in the Premier League.

Liverpool lies in fourth place with 30 points from 16 games, six points behind Blackburn. The Reds are counting on a victory after collecting just one point from a possible six.

Another team coming off a big League Cup win is Arsenal, which downed Sheffield Wednesday 2-0 and plays at Nottingham Forest tomorrow.

It was a morale-boosting win for the Gunners, reeling from Paul Merson's admission that he was addicted to cocaine and news that the FA was looking into alleged



BLINDSIDED — Newcastle's John Beresford is hit from behind by Manchester City's Niall Quinn as Barry Venison looks on in League Cup action Wednesday.

financial irregularities at the club involving the signing of foreign players.

But Arsenal's victory came at a high price as several players went down to injury and are doubtful for tomorrow's game: goalkeeper David Seaman (cracked rib), Steve Morrow (back), Alan Smith and Paul Dickov (ankle) and Eddie McGoldrick (hamstring). On top of that, Tony Adams is scheduled for achilles tendon surgery.

Nottingham Forest, in fifth place with 28 points, needs a win over Arsenal to keep in title contention.

Blackburn will be looking to bounce back after the League Cup exit to Liverpool. But the Rovers face a stern test at Wimbledon the side that dented their championship hopes last season with a 4-1 triumph.

The 'Dons, who went on to beat eventual champions Manchester United, have shown signs in recent weeks that they are returning to form.

Injury-hit Newcastle, which last weekend slipped out of the top two for the first time this season, plays at Tottenham. Kevin Keegan's club played without eight first-team regulars in Wednesday's League Cup draw at Manchester City and the reserves are likely to be needed again at White Hart Lane.

Manchester United, one point adrift of Blackburn, plays at home against a Norwich side that has scored just four goals in eight away matches. United has won nine straight at Old Trafford and has yet to concede a goal at home.

Goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar's perfect record since being accused

of match-fixing will be put to the test when Southampton plays host to Chelsea.

Brian Little returns to Leicester as manager of Aston Villa in a relegation battle between two clubs separated by just two points at the bottom of the standings.

In other games, Ipswich hosts Manchester City while Sheffield Wednesday is home against Crystal Palace. On Sunday, it's Queens Park Rangers vs. West Ham.

In Division One, Middlesbrough should maintain its lead with a home win against Portsmouth.

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS: Division One — Portsmouth 0, Stoke 1; League Cup (Fourth round) — Arsenal 2, Sheffield Wednesday 0; Blackburn 1, Liverpool 3; Crystal Palace 0, Aston Villa 1; Manchester City 1, Newcastle 1; Norwich 1, Middlesbrough 0; Nottingham Forest 0, Millwall 2; Swansea 2, Derby 1; West Ham 1, Bolton 3. Scottish Premier Division: Hibernian 1, Celtic 1.

Maccabi Tel Aviv loses heartbreaker to Pesaro

BRIAN FREEMAN

MACCABI Tel Aviv ran out of gas in overtime last night and lost to Scavolini Pesaro 79-74, dropping its seventh straight game in Italy and falling to 1-3 in the final pool of the European Club Championships.

In the extra period, Maccabi could not buy a rebound, as Scavolini center Dean Garrett controlled the boards and scored five points to stuff out what had been an impressive Israeli performance.

The win for Pesaro pushes its record to 3-1 and a first-place tie in Group A.

Norris Coleman connected on a three-point shot to tie the game for Maccabi at 70-70 with 30 seconds left in regulation. The Israelis could have won the game, but Pesaro's 14 for 14 from the free throw line in the second half out-classed the 11 for 18 (61 percent) effort by Maccabi.

The pity was that Maccabi built on its encouraging home win over Real Madrid last week and used its full arsenal in giving the Italians a

real scare.

In the first half, Doron Jamchee came off the bench with just over five minutes left to score eight of his game-high 18 points to help cut a 32-22 Pesaro lead to 36-32 at the break.

Maccabi, opening with Motti Daniel in place of the injured Jamchee, took an early 8-2 advantage, but could have built a bigger lead if it had not wasted several scoring opportunities created by a tenacious defense. Once again, Radislav Curcic and Coleman were unable to finish off plays and hold on to rebounds in the early going.

Pesaro's sparkplug guard, 24-year-old Federico Pileri, ignited the Italian offense with 12 first-half points. His ability to both penetrate and nail the three-pointer made him particularly difficult to stop.

Pileri was complemented beautifully by the amazing inside play of veteran Walter Magnifico, who

sank nine of his 11 points in the first half.

Pileri led Pesaro with 16 points, while Garrett scored 15 and Sandro Dell'Agnello 15, all in the second half.

For Maccabi, Jamchee had 18, Coleman 17, Guy Goodes 16 and Curcic 12.

In other Group A action, hosts Real Madrid handed CSKA Moscow its first loss in the championships 97-81 and Olimpija Ljubljana defeated visiting PAOK Saloniki 87-81, while in a Group B game, hosts Cibona Zagreb beat Joventut Badalona 71-69.

Next week Maccabi hosts Olimpija Ljubljana. Pesaro visits CSKA Moscow, Panatiniakos plays at home against PAOK Saloniki and Real Madrid hosts Benfica Lisbon.

In Group B next week, Barcelona hosts Cibona Zagreb, Bayer Leverkusen plays at home against Joventut Badalona, Bologna travels to Efes Pilsen and Limoges hosts Olympiakos.

Streaking Magic too hot for Kings

NEW YORK (AP) — The Orlando Magic are looking every bit like the NBA title contenders they were projected to be at the start of the season.

A 114-107 victory over the Sacramento Kings gave Orlando its eighth consecutive win, a record for the fifth-year franchise, and the best record in the league at 10-2.

"How you start is important, but how you finish means more," Magic coach Brian Hill said. "It may be imperative that we got out to this type of start."

The Magic have been winning with balanced scoring, and Wednesday night's victory was no different. Shaquille O'Neal led the way with 41 points, while Andrei Kirilenko added 23 and Nick Anderson 22.

The Magic haven't lost since November 10, when the New York Knicks beat them 101-99 at Madison Square Garden on a late jumper by Patrick Ewing.

O'Neal set the tone for Orlando, scoring the Magic's first 13 points and finishing the first period with 17 on 7-for-8 shooting. Then Anderson scored 16, including four 3-pointers, in the second quarter to give Orlando a 66-52 halftime lead.

The Kings, who got 19 points from Brian Grant and 14 from Bobby Hurley, didn't get any closer than 14 points until the final minute.

Celtics 118, Pistons 115

A season-high 37 points from Terry Mills and a flurry of 3-pointers down the stretch weren't enough to bring Detroit back against Boston, which got above .500 for the first time this season.

Dino Radja had 26 points and 12 rebounds at Boston Garden.

The Pistons made five 3-pointers in 1:07 to close a 110-100 deficit to 116-115 with six seconds remaining. Dominique Wilkins, who had 18 points, then made two free throws for Boston with five seconds to go.

Hornets 105, Heat 87

Larry Johnson narrowly missed posting the Hornets' first triple-double of the season, getting 23 points, 10 rebounds and nine assists against Miami.

After starting the season 0-3, the Hornets have won three consecutive games and seven of their past 10.

Kevin Willis and Harold Miner had 14 points apiece for the visiting Heat, whose only lead of the game was after the opening basket.

Cavaliers 117, Lakers 79

Seven Cleveland players scored in double figures as the Cavaliers handed Los Angeles one of its most lopsided defeats ever.

The loss ended the Lakers' five-game winning streak and sent them home with a 3-1 record for their four-game road trip.

Mark Price, Terrell Brandon and Tony Campbell had 16 points each for Cleveland.

Vlade Divac had 14 and Nick Van Exel 13 for the Lakers.

Bulls 118, Suns 105

Scottie Pippen did it all for Chicago, getting 35 points, nine rebounds, six assists and five steals while helping keep Charles Barkley in check in the second half.

Pippen's 13-for-17 shooting helped the Bulls withstand a late surge to beat Phoenix and end the Suns' four-game winning streak.

Charles Barkley, making just his second start of the season, led the visiting Suns with 22 points.

SuperSonics 109, Spurs 100

Seattle got 21 points from Gary Payton and 18 off the bench from Sam Perkins to help overcome David Robinson's 42 points for San Antonio.

Seattle won its fourth straight overall and its seventh straight over the Spurs.

In reaching a season high, Robinson made 15 of 20 shots from the field, 12 of 14 free throws and had nine rebounds.

Detlef Schrempf had 17 points and led the host Sonics with seven rebounds.

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS: Eastern Conference — Orlando 114, Sacramento 107; Charlotte 105, Miami 87; Cleveland 117, L.A. Lakers 79; Chicago 118, Phoenix 105; Seattle 109, San Antonio 100.

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
Orlando	10	2	.833	—
Indiana	7	5	.583	2.5
New York	7	5	.583	2.5
Boston	6	6	.500	3.5
New Jersey	6	6	.500	3.5
Washington	4	8	.333	5.5
Philadelphia	4	8	.333	5.5
Miami	3	9	.250	7

Central Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
Cleveland	8	5	.615	—
Indiana	7	5	.583	.5
Charlotte	7	5	.583	.5
Chicago	7	5	.583	.5
Detroit	7	5	.583	.5
Minnesota	4	8	.333	2.5
Atlanta	4	9	.308	3

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
Houston	10	3	.769	—
Utah	9	4	.692	1.5
Dallas	8	5	.615	2
Denver	6	6	.500	3.5
San Antonio	6	7	.462	4
Minnesota	10	3	.769	9.5

Pacific Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
Phoenix	10	4	.714	—
Seattle	9	5	.643	.5
Golden State	8	5	.615	1.5
L.A. Lakers	8	6	.571	2
Portland	6	6	.500	3.5
Sacramento	6	6	.500	3.5
L.A. Clippers	0	13	.000	9.5

TODAY ON CABLE TV

CHANNEL 5

7:00 Bodies in motion 9:30 Argentinian league soccer 11:00 Brazilian league soccer 12:00 European basketball 13:00 Euro Cup v Cosmos 13:30 Spanish league soccer 15:00 WWF 16:00 Euro 16:30 Israeli basketball 17:00 Israeli showjumping 20:00 Euro 20:30 CBA basketball 22:00 Euro soccer magazine 23:00 (to be announced)

EUROSPORT

9:30 Aerobics 10:00 Sailing magazine 11:00 Leisure sports 12:00 ATP 12:30 Live Davis Cup tennis: Sweden v Russia 13:00 Superbikes 20:00 Live alpine skiing 21:00 Eurosport news 22:00 International motor racing magazine 23:00 Davis Cup highlights 00:00 WWF 1:00 Golf 2:00 Eurosport news

PRIME SPORTS

6:00 Live field hockey from Australia 7:30 International motor racing magazine 8:30 Live field hockey 10:00 Cricket from Singapore 11:00 WWF 12:00 Asian soccer show 13:00 International sports magazine 13:30 NBA behind the scenes 14:00 European soccer: Norway v Belarusia 16:00 Field hockey 19:00 European soccer: Norway v Belarusia 21:00 Cricket from Singapore 22:00 WWF 23:00 Asian soccer show 00:00 International sports magazine 00:30 NBA behind the scenes 1:00 European soccer: Norway v Belarusia

SATURDAY DECEMBER 3

CHANNEL 5

8:30 Table tennis 9:30 Spanish league soccer 11:00 Mondial 11:30 European soccer magazine 12:30 English league soccer 13:30 English league soccer highlights: Liverpool v Blackburn 14:30 Handball 15:30 Volleyball 16:30 NBA 18:00 World rugby 18:30 Horse racing 19:30 Israeli basketball 20:00 Euro 20:30 NBA 22:00 Israeli soccer 23:00 Euro 00:00 CBA

EUROSPORT

9:30 Aerobics 10:00 Figure skating from Pennsylvania 11:00 Live alpine skiing 13:30 Live Davis Cup final: Russia v Sweden 15:30 Live European swimming championship from Norway 17:00 Live speed skating from Holland 18:30 Soccer from Japan 19:30 Live alpine skiing 21:30 Siding highlights 22:30 Speed skating highlights 23:00 Davis Cup highlights 00:00 Soccer 1:00 Wrestling 2:00 International motor racing magazine

PRIME SPORTS

6:15 Live field hockey from Australia 8:00 International sports magazine 8:30 NBA behind the scenes 9:00 Show jumping 10:00 European soccer show 11:00 WWF 12:00 Live Million Dollar Challenge golf from Sun City 17:00 Asian soccer final quarterfinal 18:30 Asian soccer final quarterfinal 21:00 European soccer show 22:00 WWF 23:00 Golf from Sun City

Czech couple cleaning up in Friedman Satellite

HEATHER CHAIT

THE Czech boyfriend and girlfriend duo of David Skoch and Leona Laskova have reached their respective finals at the parallel Masters tennis events being played in Beersheba.

In keeping with their outstanding record on the circuit after winning all three previous rounds in Haifa, Tel Aviv and Ashkelon, the top seeds Skoch and Laskova are bent on their fourth titles today.

After beating Israeli Gilad Bloom 6-4, 6-4 yesterday, Skoch, 280 in the ATP World Series Rankings, plays local Eyal Erlich today in the \$25,000 Friedman Satellite final.

Erlich defeated fellow-Israeli Noam Behr 6-0, 6-3.

In the Ada Moros development circuit, Laskova, ranked 468, reached the final by beating Israeli Nataly Cahana 6-3, 6-3.

Her opponent today is Ivona Mihailova from Macedonia who ousted new immigrant from Ukraine, Tessa Shapovalova 6-4, 7-5.

The satellite circuit offers players the opportunity to accumulate ATP points. Players from 14 countries participated in the event.

Today's finals begin at 13:30 at the Israel Tennis Center in Beersheba.

Merson suspended for drug rehabilitation

LONDON (Reuters) — England international Paul Merson, a self-confessed cocaine addict, will be suspended from the Premier League while he undergoes a drug rehabilitation program, soccer officials said yesterday.

His suspension will probably last four to six weeks but may be much longer, depending on medical opinion.

Merson, the first Premier League player to admit to drug use, will pay most of the costs of his rehabilitation himself.

If the attacking midfielder at any stage fails to comply with the program, he will inevitably face tough disciplinary action, soccer officials said.

A statement agreed between Ar-

senal, the Football Association (F.A.) and the Professional Footballers Association said Merson, who had been "very frank" with officials during talks yesterday, faced considerable problems because of his drug addiction.

"In our view a complex and unprecedented situation demands that the first priority must be rehabilitation," it said.

Merson told the Daily Mirror last week he spent up to £150 a night on cocaine during marathon drinking sessions. He returned from abroad earlier this week, saying he was now determined to kick his habit.

Merson, who has played 14 times for England, has also been fined eight times by Arsenal.

Russia Davis Cup pits Volkov against Edberg

MOSCOW (Reuters) — Alexander Volkov faces a test of nerve when he opens Russia's Davis Cup tennis final challenge against experienced Swedish number one Stefan Edberg in the first singles match today.

The draw, made in Moscow yesterday, means the second match today will be between top-ranked Russian Yevgeny Kafelnikov and Sweden's Magnus Larsson, hero of his country's semifinal win over the US.

Russia, playing in its first final of the world's most prestigious team tennis tournament, had hoped Kafelnikov's name would be drawn before Volkov so he could give the home side the best possible start.

"We had counted on Kafelnikov playing first because recently he has been playing very well," Russia's non-playing captain Vadim Borisov told reporters after the draw.

"But I'm not disappointed because Alexander Volkov has just won the Kremlin Cup and is in very good form."

Volkov, 27, who won the international Kremlin Cup tournament earlier this month in the same Olympic arena where the final will be held, seemed relaxed at the prospect of facing the former world number one, who is still ranked seventh.

"I've played Edberg many times and I'm very excited but it does not add to the pressure," he said.

Edberg, 28 and the oldest member of the Swedish team, said that

appearing in the Davis Cup final was still nerve-racking even though he had done it many times.

"There is going to be a lot of pressure. Everybody wants to play well but the most important thing for the team members is to fight for every point," he said.

As expected, Sweden is fielding its world champion doubles partnership of Jan Apell and Jonas Bjorkman in tomorrow's only match, against Kafelnikov and his regular partner Andrei Olkhovsky.

The two reverse singles matches will be played on Sunday.

Russia reached the final after a series of sensational victories, against last year's beaten finalists Australia, at home to the Czech Republic, when they could field only two players, and away to Germany in the semifinal.

Sweden beat Denmark and France before knocking out the US 3-2 in the semifinal after a four-set victory by Larsson over Todd Martin.

"After the match against Martin, I raised my level of play and I hope to do well in my two matches here," he said.

Sweden, which dominated the tournament in the 1980s with three victories in seven finals, will be looking to make up for semifinal defeats in the last two years.

Both sides have said the match promises to be one of the most even in recent years.

Borisov said playing at home would add "10 to 15 percent" to his players' game.

Smith chasing elusive Sanders for rushing title

IRVING, Texas (AP) — He's 199 yards behind with four games to go. Emmitt Smith needs a 50-yard difference per game to win his fourth consecutive NFL rushing title.

"If it's meant to be, fine," Smith said. "If not, I'll take another Super Bowl ring."

Smith is chasing the one runner he might not be able to catch, Barry Sanders of the Detroit Lions.

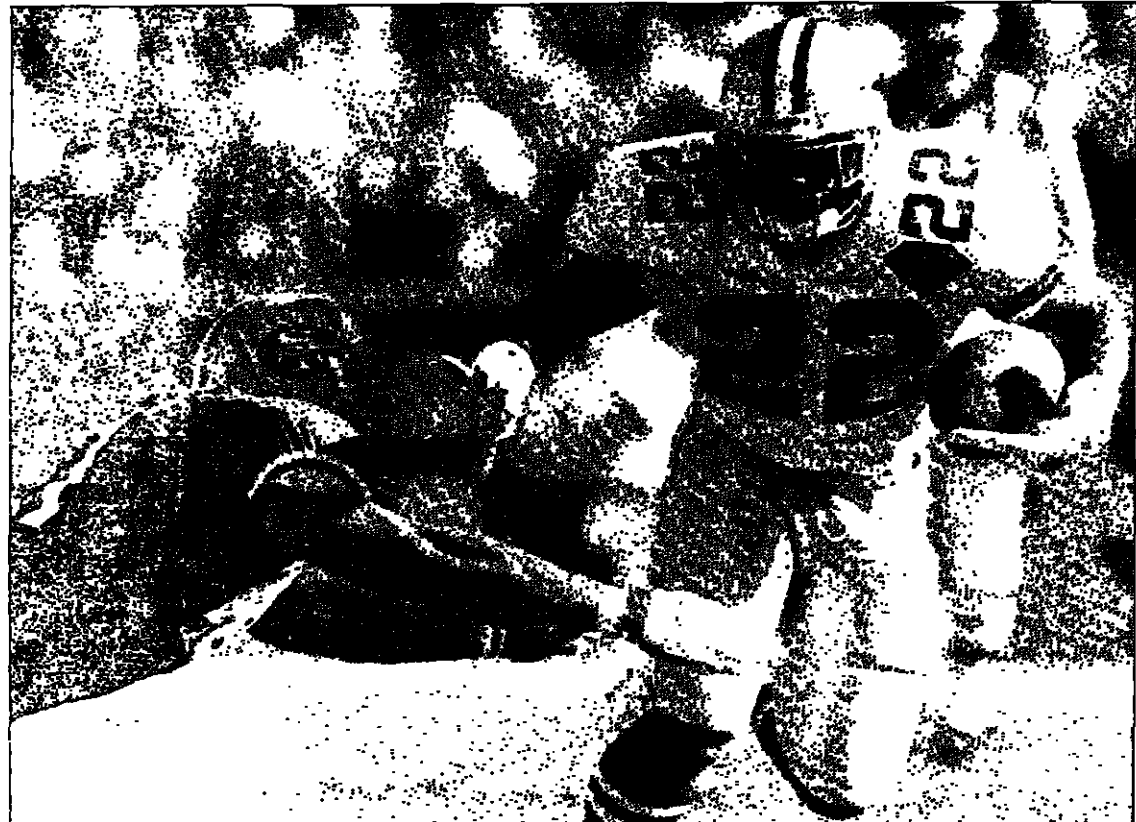
"My job is to try to win games right now, not another rushing title," said Smith, who has been bothered this year by pulled hamstrings and sore shoulders.

But he adds that, "I'd be lying if I said I'm not looking at what (Sanders) does. Sure I look at the man. He's the only one ahead of me."

What could hurt Smith's bid to join Jim Brown as the only rusher to win four consecutive titles is the Lions' playoff chances.

The Dallas Cowboys suspect that if Detroit gets bounced out of the playoffs, the Lions will feed the ball to Sanders on an above normal basis.

"Barry may get the ball 50 times a game if they lose another game or two," offensive tackle Nate



OFF AND RUNNING — Dallas Cowboys Emmitt Smith avoids a linebacker. Smith is out to win his fourth straight rushing title.

Newton said. "If they've got no playoff goals then they'll go with their star looking for individual goals."

Newton said Smith's primary

concern is getting his team in position for another Super Bowl run.

"Barry could go down as the greatest of all time but he'll have no Super Bowl rings," Newton

said. "Emmitt may get me into the Hall of Fame with all the rings he's helped this franchise win."

Smith is still going strong, but not as strong as last year.

Chinese officials deny systemic doping of athletes

BEDJING (AP) — Positive drug tests for 11 Chinese athletes were not evidence of regular drug use in Chinese sports, officials said yesterday.

"This is an act by individuals," Foreign Ministry spokesman Chen Jian said at a weekly briefing, adding that Chinese sports authorities practice "strict prohibition, strict testing and strict punishment" of drug use.

Chen reiterated China's position that recent stunning performances by its athletes were the result of hard, scientific training.

"Their performance cannot be denied," he said.

The 11, including seven swimmers, tested positive for performance-enhancing drugs during the Asian Games in October in Hiroshima.

On Wednesday the Chinese national Olym-

pic committee said it was "shocked and upset."

They followed allegations by coaches and athletes from other countries that the stunning successes of China's athletes may be due in part to the use of performance-enhancing drugs.

Allegations of drug use among Chinese women swimmers escalated at the World Championships in Rome in September when they won 12 of 16 gold medals.

Local rugby schedule

Tomorrow's matches — Ra'anana juniors vs. Tel Aviv juniors, Sportek; Ra'anana seniors vs. Tel Aviv seniors, Sportek; Maccabi Herzliya vs. Kibbutz Yotat, Sportek; Jerusalem vs. Herta Technion, Givat Ram Stadium; Kibbutz Yotat vs. Beersheba juniors, Beitar Beersheba field.

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- The Post's "agony aunt" Ruth Blum answers readers' questions.
- Intelligence experts Uri Dan and Dennis Eisenberg give you inside stories of international intrigue.

Ben-Porat admits misquoting Sheves

State asks High Court to throw out Turner's petition

EVELYN GORDON

STATE Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat acknowledged before the High Court of Justice yesterday that she did accidentally misquote the director-general of the Prime Minister's Office, Shimon Sheves, in an affidavit to the court, but said the mistake did not change the fact that Sheves's testimony to the court completely contradicted his testimony to her.

Ben-Porat's letter was in response to an affidavit by Sheves submitted on Monday, in which he accused her of misquoting him and taking his quotes out of context in an affidavit she submitted on Sunday.

Both affidavits relate to two petitions, by the Likud's Gil Samsonov, and Amicit - Citizens for Good Government, demanding that Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair open a criminal investigation against Sheves for interfering with the police investigation of former interior minister Aryeh Deri.

The petitions are based on Ben-Porat's report on the conflict between Police Minister Moshe Shaleh and former police inspector-general Ya'acov Turner, in which she found that Sheves tried to persuade Turner to change the team investigating Deri.

In her letter, Ben-Porat said a review of the protocols of her office's interviews with Sheves revealed that she had misquoted him at one point in her affidavit. She quoted him as saying "I don't know if this was okay from my point of view..." when he actually said, "I don't - if this was okay from the point of view..." The misquote was due to a typographic error, she said.

Ben-Porat did not respond to Sheves's charge that she had taken the quotes out of context.

"However... my opinion was, and still is, that what Sheves said in his affidavit to the High Court is clearly different from what he told my staff - so much so that it consti-

tutes a complete contradiction," she wrote.

"Incidentally, you will notice that [Sheves's] second affidavit does not contain any serious response to most of the essential comments [in my original affidavit]," she added.

The state, meanwhile, asked the court yesterday to reject a petition by Turner which asked the court to overturn Ben-Porat's report on his conflict with Shaleh. This report found that Turner had lied when he charged Shaleh with trying to interfere with the Deri investigation.

In his petition, Turner claimed Ben-Porat had not given him a fair chance to defend himself because he was not allowed to see all the testimony against him, and she had refused to accept additional material from him or interview people he suggested. Ben-Porat also failed to warn him that he

might be damaged by her conclusions, he said.

In response, government attorney Uzi Fogelman said Turner had been given every chance to present his case. Turner was the last person interviewed, Fogelman said, and he was informed of all statements by previous witnesses which contradicted his version so that he could respond. He was also allowed, despite his contrary claim, to submit additional material at will, Fogelman said.

At no point during the interviews or in the following months - until the report was published - did Turner ever ask to examine any documents or raise any other complaints about the process, Fogelman added, so he should not be allowed to do so now just because he does not like Ben-Porat's findings.

Furthermore, he said, a state comptroller's report is not a judicial or quasi-judicial process. Therefore, the comptroller is not

obligated to follow judicial rules of evidence, and her findings are not subject to judicial review. She also has discretion as to how to conduct an investigation, and is not obligated to show any of the participants any material.

Finally, Ben-Porat had no obligation to warn Turner that he might be hurt by her findings, any more than a judge has an obligation to warn a witness that he might find his testimony unreliable, Fogelman said, because it is self-evident that this possibility exists.

In other news, Sheves is to begin testifying at Aryeh Deri's trial on Sunday. He will be giving information on whether Deri misused his influence at the Interior Ministry to obtain alternate lands for religious families who had purchased plots in Nebi Samwil. Deri is on trial in the Jerusalem District Court for bribe-taking, fraud, breach of trust and falsifying corporate documents.

Tank thief indicted, has remand extended

ALON PINKAS

SGT. Amit Nehemia, the soldier who stole an IDF tank and went on a rampage last month, was indicted yesterday on nine separate counts and had his remand extended for another 28 days.

"The army's disciplinary requirements would be critically damaged and tarnished if a soldier who takes a tank on a rampage to shock his unit and the entire country will be let off," the military prosecutor, Capt. Eynat Bar-Ilan, said during a hearing at Central Command Military Court.

An army investigation concluded that Nehemia, a Yehud resident, suffered from distress in his unit, which was unqualified to deal with his problems.

Nehemia was charged, among other things, with taking a

weapon system out of the army's possession without authority, instilling public fear, reckless driving, committing an act of recklessness and illegal use of arms and behavior unbecoming an IDF soldier. Nehemia was also indicted for driving against traffic on the Yavne-Ashdod road, as well as hitting a bus and injuring six passengers.

Nehemia's lawyer, Aryeh Chertok, said in court yesterday that his client did indeed commit a serious offense, but he did it as an act of desperate protest.

"For a long period of time Amit Nehemia was subject to ugly abuse. Two other soldiers serving in Julis committed suicide. The question is what is preferable, to shoot yourself or protest without causing any harm to anyone," Chertok said.



Sgt. Amit Nehemia is escorted by Military Police yesterday on his way into Central Command Military Court in Jaffa for his hearing. (Israel Sun)



Suspect 1 (top), suspect 2 (above).

Police release two more sketches of kidnap suspects

RAINE MARCUS

DETECTIVES hunting for Alexandra (Sasha) Brandet, 10, have issued two more photokit pictures of men seen with her in Ramat Gan. The descriptions were given by a woman who said she saw the men talking in Russian to her.

Suspect No. 1 is described as around 24 years old and 1.75 m. tall. Suspect No. 2 is around 20 years old and 1.60 m. in height.

An earlier photokit should not be ignored, said police. The public is asked to call 03-5454414 or 545-4418 to report information about the disappearance.

Kibbutz Sa'ad joins Maccabi health fund

ALL 500 members and 300 children of Kibbutz Sa'ad in the south left Kupat Holim Clalit and joined the Maccabi health fund in November. Maccabi said yesterday Sa'ad was the first kibbutz to join the fund en masse.

Some 2,500 kibbutznik adults now belong to Maccabi, com-

JUDY SIEGEL

pared with only 1,930 a year ago, according to the National Insurance Institute survey of health fund members. In addition, Maccabi covers 8.6 percent of all moshav members and expects this figure to reach 10% by the end of

the year.

The national health insurance system - due to go into effect next month - will allow all residents to join any health fund, no matter where they work or their labor federation affiliation.

The Clalit spokesman declined to comment.

Ministry reverses decision barring health funds charging for visits to hospital outpatient clinics

JUDY SIEGEL

THE Health Ministry will now allow the three smaller health funds to charge their members NIS 10 for each visit to a hospital outpatient clinic.

Although the Health Ministry said a few months ago that the national health insurance law will bar all insurers from charging fees after January 1, it now says that the outpatient clinic fee will be legal. On the basis of this rule, the

ministry had said Clalit and the Meuhedet health funds will not be allowed to charge NIS 5 for the first visit each quarter to specialists in community clinics. Maccabi, which has been charging this for several years, will be allowed to continue this practice.

Kupat Holim Clalit yesterday started collecting the fee upon instructions from the Knesset Fi-

nance Committee, as part of the health fund's recovery program.

MK Ra'anan Cohen claimed that under the universal health insurance system, all health fund members will have to pay for numerous medications that until now they received almost for free. Ministry spokeswoman Yifat Ben-Hai denied this, saying that under the new system patients will have to pay out-of-pocket for fewer, not more, types of drugs.

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3-seater, 2-seater plus recliner	Bayer dralon	NIS 9,775	NIS 6,995
2-seater (on its own)	Print	NIS 7,105	NIS 1,895
3-seater, 2-seater plus chair	Mod. Leather	NIS 23,500	NIS 12,995
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Gov't looks for map at peace-process crossroads

The next phase of talks with the PLO will test the strength of the Oslo accord, David Makovsky reports

ISRAEL is entering perhaps the most critical stage of the peace talks with the Palestinians next week. But as it stands at the crossroads, the government has no unified strategy on how to proceed.

The cabinet is to debate strategy a day before talks are scheduled to begin in Cairo. The only consensus in the government appears to be a negative one: nobody wants the negotiations to unfold in the way prescribed by the Oslo accord.

The central problem during the next phase of the peace process is how to reconcile two provisions of the Oslo accord: IDF withdrawal from Palestinian population centers throughout the territories, and the continued existence of all Jewish settlements there.

This may be impossible. As one senior IDF official said, "We are supposed to get out everywhere, and still protect all the settlers. This cannot be done."

This has led to serious criticism of the accord. Those Israelis who conceived Oslo would have preferred a straight territorial partition, but believed this was not politically feasible. As Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said, "We did not feel we had the strength" to take on supporters of the settlements at the time.

Also, the two sides have widely differing views on the status of eastern Jerusalem. Therefore, they went for the politically convenient approach: an interim period, as stipulated in the Camp David accords 16 years ago. At the heart of the self-rule phase was the idea of IDF redeployment outside Palestinian population centers,



The accord's main problem is how the IDF will withdraw from Palestinian population centers while still protecting nearby Jewish settlements. (Ariel Jerozolimski)

also as called for at Camp David.

However, a major change has taken place in the territories since then. At the time, there were only a few thousand Jewish settlers; redeployment would have served basically to create a buffer between the two sides. Now there are 120,000 settlers, making this far more complicated. Instead of enhancing security, redeployment today is likely to undermine it.

Like it or not, whatever the government decides now will shape

the disposition of territory down the road, peace negotiator and Environment Minister Yossi Sarid said this week. "This is the most important part of the peace process, as it will inevitably decide the next phase. It won't be reversed. We need to [start looking at] maps."

In assessing alternatives to Oslo during the last week, three options have been put forward publicly by different senior officials on where Israel should go from here.

Last week, Prime Minister Rabin essentially called for dropping redeployment altogether except for the three days of the Palestinian elections.

However, amid Palestinian criticism that this was a violation of Oslo, Rabin retracted, saying everything was open to negotiation. But the idea of no redeployment was endorsed by Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee chairman Ori Orr, and won a backhanded boost from an unlikely source: Labor Party secretary-general Nissim Zivili.

Zivili, while usually associated with the political camp of Peres, this week said the government should freeze the peace process until after 1996, because it is unpopular with the electorate.

In an interview with the Post, Sarid called for a second option:

mixed redeployment. He talked about full redeployment in some areas, partial pullback in others, and none in places like Hebron where Jewish settlers live amid Palestinians. Sarid also believes that redeployment and full settlement do not go together, and he called for dismantling about 10 settlements in densely populated Palestinian areas now due to the security threat.

Sarid also made it clear that Israel cannot afford to build new access roads to every remote settlement in order to circumvent Arab villages. Apart from the reported cost of over NIS 1 billion, sources say that the move would create "fragments of enclaves everywhere," making ultimate territorial partition impossible.

Deputy Foreign Minister Beilin put forward a third, more daring,

option this week. Although an architect of Oslo, he has concluded that the interim period is unworkable and that Israel and the PLO should begin holding negotiations on the final disposition of the territories. "It could be that the effort, energy and time that we would need to invest in reaching an interim agreement could be better spent in negotiating final status arrangements," he said. The aim would be to complete those talks before the 1996 Knesset elections.

Beilin does not hide the fact that he would like final negotiations wrapped up over the next year, because he does not know whether a Labor coalition will be in place to ensure partition. But there is more at stake.

The current stalemate is likely to exact a deadly price, according

to a recent internal study of the Foreign Ministry policy planning unit. Its main conclusion, backed up by members of the intelligence community, is that if it is decided not to do anything in the territories, there will be an upsurge of Palestinian violence. The government will ultimately end up conceding anyway, but under much worse terms and with the Israeli public even more resentful about growing violence. This won't help the government's popularity. It is better to act willingly than to be dragged into concessions.

Furthermore, inaction now is likely to tip the Palestinian political scales away from Arafat and toward Hamas, which has charged that "Gaza First" means "Gaza Last."

Rabin himself has increasingly called for "separation" with the Palestinians, a euphemism for partition.

However, Rabin the politician is once again more hesitant than Rabin the analyst. Even Chief of General Staff Ehud Barak, a critic of Oslo, is known to believe that Israel is better off choosing either partition or full control instead of security in the territories. He sees a middle course of amorphous, shared responsibility as a recipe for strife.

Barak prefers to negotiate a divorce, not a marriage. He believes that Israel needs to work out a map of what it wants to keep after the final status talks, and then conduct negotiations on that basis.

Joseph Alpher, director of Tel Aviv University's Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies, introduced such a map this week. He conducted a study on Israel's borders and settlements and noted that it can keep 70% of the settlers in the territories if it annexes 11% of contiguous land there and yields much of the rest. He believes Israel is more likely to reach a desirable result if it holds final status talks secretly, an Oslo II, where neither side has to engage in public posturing.

The politicians may already be trailing reality.

Varying real-estate prices in different parts of the territories suggest that the public is confident about certain parts of the land remaining under Israeli control.

Even as one talks to settlers in the territories, one senses that they have already carved out their own map showing which parts will remain.

As one official noted: "The public is usually ahead of the politicians. Instead of underestimating the public, the government should speak forthrightly. But this takes courage and not just thinking about the next election."

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A watchful eye widens on a menacing neighbor

The debate in policy-making and intelligence circles over the extent of the threat posed by Iran has been resolved. Iran sponsors terrorism and is attempting to acquire a long-range military capability, Alon Pinkas reports

PRIME Minister Yitzhak Rabin has resolved the question of the nature and direction of the Iranian threat, which has been the focus of debate inside the intelligence community.

Last month in Washington, Rabin explicitly accused Iran of aiding Hizbullah, partially financing Hamas and the Islamic Jihad in the territories, and trying to destabilize the Israeli-Arab peace process.

These allegations were previously made abundantly clear by Israeli officials.

The former and last Israeli ambassador to Teheran, Uri Lubrani, who is now the government's coordinator of activities in south Lebanon, said this summer that Iran's fingerprints are visibly and undeniably clear in Hizbullah's arming and financing in Lebanon.

Air Force commander Maj.-Gen. Herzl Budinger has said that the newly acquired (but not yet delivered) F-151 jets are a qualitative strategic arm capable of long-range operations. He did not allude to Iran, but his predecessor, Maj.-Gen. Avihu Bin-Nun, was more specific.

Rabin has found a sympathetic ear in Washington. The Clinton administration has adopted a policy of "dual containment" aimed at both Iran and Iraq.

RABIN'S LASHING out at Iran, in addition to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's accusation that Iran was behind recent riots in Gaza, was an indication that the school in the intelligence community arguing that Iran constitutes a serious threat is prevailing.

"I think that following several years of dwelling on the issue, the facts finally had their say. Iran is supporting fundamentalist movements all over the Arab world, constantly subverting moderate regimes with which we have or aspire to have a dialogue," says a senior official in the Foreign Ministry.

"The Iranians want to reconstruct the radical front with religious motivations. They are trying to turn the Israeli-Arab conflict into a Jewish-Islamic confrontation. But the West still does not grasp the full extent of this phenomenon."

"Germany had \$5-billion worth of economic ties until recently. When economics are the sole driving force, common political sense is neglected and ignored."

Others tend to be less impressed by a potential threat from Iran.

Dr. Ephraim Kam of Tel Aviv University's Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies wrote the chapter on Iran in the recently published *The Middle East Military Balance 1993-1994*.

"By mid-1994 it was clear that for the next few years the implications of the Iranian threat were relatively limited.... Only if Iran were to acquire surface-to-surface missiles with a range that reaches Israel, would it achieve the capacity to strike Israel from its own territory without being directly integrated into an Arab-Israeli war," Kam writes.

A former assistant director of the intelligence branch's research department, Kam argues that Iran is motivated by a self-perceived threat.

"The threat previously emanated from the former Soviet Union and now from its immediate neighbors," Kam said in an interview.

"Iran failed to lure the Islamic former-Soviet republics to follow its model and is experiencing an ongoing economic crisis, which has a moderating effect on its policies. They are 10 years away from nuclear weapons, and even that is doubtful."

But he said Iran is still sponsoring terrorism and the subversion of moderate Arab regimes, and is also attempting to acquire a long-range military capability.

IRAN IS a threat. No one in intelligence or decision-making circles disputes this, but they do disagree heatedly about how great the threat is, and to whom. They therefore can't agree on how Israel should respond.

The debate revolves around the definition and interpretation of the essence of this perceived threat from Iran.

One approach contends that Iran poses a significant political and military threat that destabilizes the entire regime and can potentially constitute an existential threat to countries in the Gulf.



The IDF's intelligence branch, according to an army source, is warning against the spread of fundamentalism, and Iran is right in the thick of that threat. (AP)

The other school of thought argues that the threat is exaggerated, that Iran is seeking to fill a regional strategic vacuum created by Iraq's defeat in 1991, that it is at least a decade away from acquiring nuclear capabilities and that its policies stem from its perception of itself as an isolated country surrounded by strategic adversaries.

The controversy in intelligence and decision-making circles here naturally focused on whether Israel and Iran are in fact enemies.

The debate also focused on whether Israel should be the one leading international efforts to further isolate Iran or play a minor role of advising and alerting the international community to Teheran's real and potential menaces.

SINCE THE end of the Gulf War between Iran and Iraq, and especially after Iraq's defeat by a US-led coalition in the second Gulf war in 1991, the Iranian threat has been a major issue on the agenda in closed meetings held in the Prime Minister's Office, the Foreign Ministry and in military intelligence circles.

In all these meetings, participants made assessments of Iran's policy orientations and trends.

They reviewed Teheran's conventional and nonconventional military buildup, its support of extremists and fundamentalist groups throughout the Middle East, its attempts to subvert moderate regimes in the region and Iran's oil politics.

"But as is often the case with estimations and assessments of political trends in a closed country and society, the conclusions varied and a controversy evolved," says one of the participants in several meetings.

For example, Iran is not listed as a direct threat to Israel in the annual assessment submitted by the intelligence branch to the chief of the general staff, and through him to the government.

"But if you look at other items, Iran is there," says a senior army source.

"The intelligence branch, as do other agencies, warns against the spread of fundamentalism and the proliferation of nonconventional weapons. Iran is in the thick of things right there."

And there are other manifestations of the Iranian threat implicit in various assessments, such as that of military intelligence.

"Iran is not perceived as a direct and viable military threat to Israel, nor should it be. But in assessments you will see that the conventional wisdom is that a peace agreement between Israel and Syria would break the Damascus-Teheran connection and lessen Iran's adverse effects on the region," says another participant in Iran-related discussions.

"That is a fact, even if indirect, reference to how we perceive Iran."

Exiled Michel Aoun's mantra: Next year in Beirut

YOU can sense the sadness in the general's voice. He knows a long road lies ahead if he is to return to the country that ousted him. But he is far from giving up.

Three years in exile, Michel Aoun is hoping to make a comeback.

The former Lebanese prime minister lives in France, which granted him political asylum after his bloody ouster from power in 1990. If Aoun had one wish, it would be to see Syria, which was responsible for his downfall,

thrown out of Lebanon.

Aoun is angry at Israel, as well as at the US and the international community, for turning a blind eye to his fate and allowing Syria a free hand in Lebanon. He warns Israel against Syria:

"They [the Syrians] don't respect their word. They scheme, they promise you one thing and do something else on the side. They promised in the past, but they never lived up to any agreement."

It was with Syrian backing that the Lebanese government removed him from power. Syrian tanks surrounded Beirut in October 1990 as the Syrian-backed Lebanese army ousted Aoun in a battle which claimed nearly 1,000 lives. After Aoun declared a truce and fled to the French Embassy, Syria executed 120 of his men.

After three years of political asylum in France, the ex-Lebanese prime minister has one wish: to see Syria leave his native country, Jacob Dallal writes

The action consolidated the Syrian power base in Lebanon and brought an end to Aoun's rocky tenure as its Christian prime minister. Aoun became prime minister in 1988 by decree of the outgoing Lebanese president, Amin Gemayel.

Because a new president, who was by tradition Christian, had not been elected, Gemayel appointed Aoun prime minister to maintain a Christian presence in the government. The Moslems rejected

Aoun's appointment and set up their own government in West Beirut. In 1990, Elias Hrawi was elected president, but Aoun refused to recognize him. A year later, Hrawi, with full Syrian backing, forced Aoun out.

TODAY, AOUN lives in a small French village, a 40-minute drive from Paris. The modest country house is guarded by the French police. The entrance, an electronic metal gate, is manned by three policemen standing behind a waist-high concrete barrier.

Once inside, a visitor is escorted to a mobile unit with another half-dozen policemen and bodily searched. Cameras and tape recorders are confiscated.

A policeman escorts the visitor across a large lawn. The whole area is surrounded by a 10-meter

fence with floodlights at the top. Security police are visible on either side of the fence, with more inside the two-story brick home.

There is another body search, after which the visitor is asked to leave his passport.

Aoun, who has an aide translate from Arabic, is quick to express his disgust with the situation in Lebanon. He questions Lebanon's ability to make peace with Israel.

"At present there is no progress [in the peace negotiations between Israel and Lebanon] unless it is linked to Syria, because the present government in Lebanon is installed by Syria. Genuine peace cannot be accomplished between Lebanon and Israel unless I see it makes peace with the people of Lebanon, not with people who were installed by Syria."



Aoun: Syria is not strong enough to make peace and not strong enough to make war. (APF)

Aoun also questions whether Syria is ready for peace with Israel.

"Syria at the present time is not strong enough to make peace and not strong enough to make war. When he [Assad] says he wants peace, he will make tough conditions. Assad does not refuse up front. He will put conditions, and this is his way of rejecting a proposal. This is what he is doing right now."

"Assad is not preparing his people for peace. He is doing nothing to prepare the people for that day. The opposite: He is supporting Hizbullah, all the radical Palestinians, all the rejectionists."

AOUN IS also very critical of what he considers to be Israel's tacit acceptance of Syria's presence in Lebanon.

"Israel - contrary to what Rabin says that he does not care if Syria were to take over in Lebanon - should insist on Syrian withdrawal from Lebanon. Instead of demanding that Syria recognize Israel, you already gave an accord that Syria can take Lebanon. It is a bad precedent for Israel to accept Syrian occupation of Lebanon before Syria recognizes Israel."

Aoun calls on Israel to pressure Syria.

"Syria wants Lebanon to be a part of it in order to create a greater power. Israel should balance Syria out. Israel is a strong regional power. It is recognized; it has its say. It could demand respect."

At the very least, Aoun says, Israel should put diplomatic pressure on the US and insist that Syria act on its pledge to

withdraw from Lebanon.

Aoun also feels that Israel is letting Syria off the hook with regard to Hizbullah.

"I am surprised by Israeli leaders and the Israeli media trying to give cover to Assad, or an excuse that it is not Syria that's giving arms and support to Hizbullah, that it's Iran."

"Who is responsible for security in Lebanon and giving an umbrella for Hizbullah? It's Syria. Syria is using it [Hizbullah] as an instrument to further its policy in the area. One should not find excuses for Assad or Syria."

Aoun is also angry with Israel for its stance during his confrontation with Syria.

When the conflict started, Aoun versus Syria, Israel chose Syria," Aoun says.

At that time, and during his term as prime minister, he did not have direct contact with Israel, he says, but he knew the Israeli position through "common friends."

Aoun now waits. He waits for international pressure to mount on Syria to withdraw from Lebanon. In France, he is trying to get the support of European leaders, many of whom he says want to see an independent Lebanon.

So "the general," as his aides call him, is beginning his longest battle. He says that when Syria withdraws, he will return to Lebanon.

"It's not a question of time. You know the Jewish people stayed out 2,000 years, saying, 'Next year in Jerusalem.'"

And I have to continue my struggle and say 'Next year in Beirut.'"



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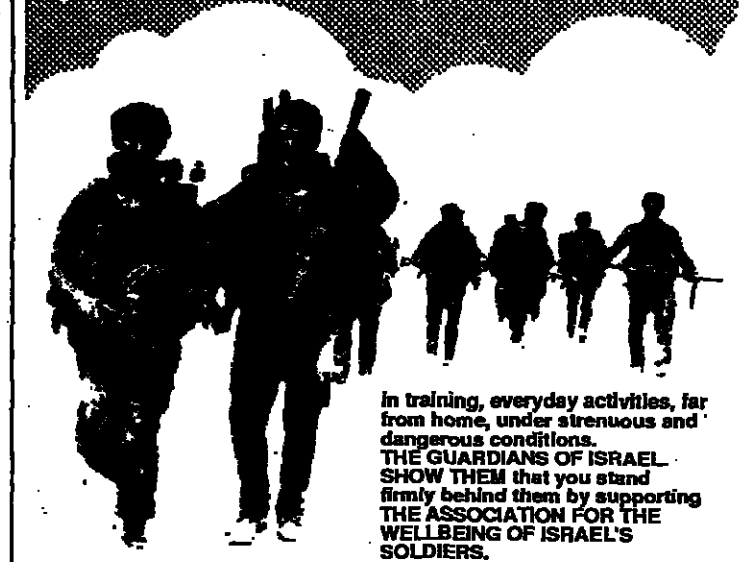
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And now starring on the late-night Knesset Show

MKs are now talking about legislation that would limit all the talking, of which there has been plenty, in the plenum this session, Dan Izenberg reports

THE Knesset spent a lot of time this week talking about whether it talks too much. As usual, the MKs couldn't agree.

But there is no denying that the Knesset is talking more than it ever has before.

According to statistics presented by Knesset Speaker Shevah Weiss, the average length of a plenary session has increased from five hours in the 12th Knesset to 7.34 hours in this, the 13th.

Even more telling, the number of pages of minutes—the official transcript of plenum verbiage—compiled in an average six-month period has increased from 4,047 in the previous Knesset to roughly 9,000 in this one.

According to Haim Ayoubi, a member of the six-person Knesset printing staff, the Knesset produces 4.5 million pages of printed material a week, including laws, resumes of committee meetings, statements to the press, and the ever-growing minutes of the plenary sessions.

Weiss says it isn't the figures that worry him. It's the quality of the work of MKs in the plenum, and the impression that televised late-night, droning debates in a practically empty chamber make on the public.

The impression the public gets is hardly fair to Knesset members. "MKs can't work from 8 in the morning until 3 at night," Weiss says.

But opposition MKs, including Dan Tichon and Michael Eitan (both Likud), question the motives of Weiss, House Committee chairman Hagai Merom (Labor), Anat Maor (Meretz) and other coalition MKs who are seeking to shorten the plenary debates.

"They are trying to gag us," Tichon charges. Tichon is one of the stars of the late-night Knesset Show. Eitan is another. He made his name two years ago when he spoke from the podium for seven hours straight during an all-night budget debate.

Today, Eitan chuckles when asked about that feat. "It's a matter of personality," he says. "Each one of us has his strengths and weaknesses."

"I only stayed at the plenum until 2:30 a.m.," he says. "When I got back to the hotel, people asked me... how come I'd left so early."

With Eitan on the sidelines, Meir Sheerit took up the opposition torch, speaking at one point for 2½ hours straight. "I have no problem talking, I never lose my concentration and I never speak from a written text," Sheerit says, confident that his work as an MK has not suffered because of the long debates.

Didn't it bother him that only a handful of MKs (all like-minded members of the opposition, except for Labor MK Eli Goldschmidt) were listening?

"I speak for the sake of the Knesset minutes, so it will be recorded that I warned about the consequences of the law," Sheerit explains. He admits knowing he can't sway the government.

THE MKs do not agree on whether plenary inflation is good or bad. But they do agree on its causes: the new system of electing Knesset candidates through party primaries and the live coverage of the plenum by IBA's Channel 3. The two are closely linked.

As far as Likud MK Ovadia Eli is concerned, the use many MKs make of Channel 3 by appearing frequently on the plenum podium is legitimate. "There is no other way to reach the hundreds of thousands of voters who participate in party primaries," he says.

There is no public information on the number of viewers for plenum broadcasts, but there were hundreds of phone calls on the night the capital gains tax bill was debated. Many politicians concluded that this meant there were thousands of viewers.

For Rehavam Ze'evi (Molodet), the plenum is often dreary, but an integral part of every MK's duty.

"When the debate isn't interesting, I go over my mail, or do some reading or writing," he says in response to a question about how he manages to sit in the plenum for so many hours.

"I listen to the proceedings with half an ear, and when things heat up, I put my papers aside and join the fray."

One unspoken aspect of the controversy over the length of plenary proceedings is the value of the debates themselves. It's one thing to let out hot air for a few hours a day in order to observe democratic niceties, and another thing to voluntarily extend the hours of hot air, the thinking goes.

There are many MKs, including some of the most talented, who do not see any value in allowing the debates to go on unrestrained, and usually stay away from the plenum. Avraham Poraz (Mertzt) would not use a term such as "hot air." But he believes most of the serious Knesset work is conducted in the committees. For him, shortening the hours of plenum debate would not be a great loss.

HOW DOES the Knesset staff of 250 permanent administrative, technical and maintenance employees and 100 guards cope with the extra work?

On the face of it, there are no problems. "Knesset employees have a team spirit," said deputy Knesset clerk David Lev.

Even Ayoubi, of the printing staff, who worked 37 hours straight during the debate on the capital gains tax, said he had no complaints.

But apparently all is not rosy in the Knesset. Late one night this week, a Knesset usher approached Poraz to thank him for fighting to reduce the plenum hours. The usher said although the Knesset had started paying overtime, problems had arisen and it was not certain employees would continue to be compensated.

"I worked 22 hours on the night of the vote," the usher told Poraz. "I don't want to work overtime at all; but if I have to work, let them pay."



Baram: Capital gains tax is the last nail in Labor's coffin. (Harari)

NISSIM Zvilli, the Labor Party secretary-general, is in deep depression about the state of the party midway through the government's term. Zvilli's mood is shared by his predecessors Micha Harish and Uzi Baram. All three have keen political noses; right now they all smell an electoral disaster for Labor.

They each respond differently and describe the situation with varying degrees of alarm, not only because their personalities differ, but because there are very different factors at play in each case.

Zvilli is in office and must protect himself while issuing his warnings, something that demands a delicate balancing act. Baram and Harish have been roundly accused in the party of settling personal scores through their dire predictions.

This is especially true of Harish, who has been subjected to ridicule and scorn since he pronounced the party "clinically dead." Suddenly, party higher-ups offered psychological analyses and abundant explanations of the "Harish syndrome" — but not for attribution.

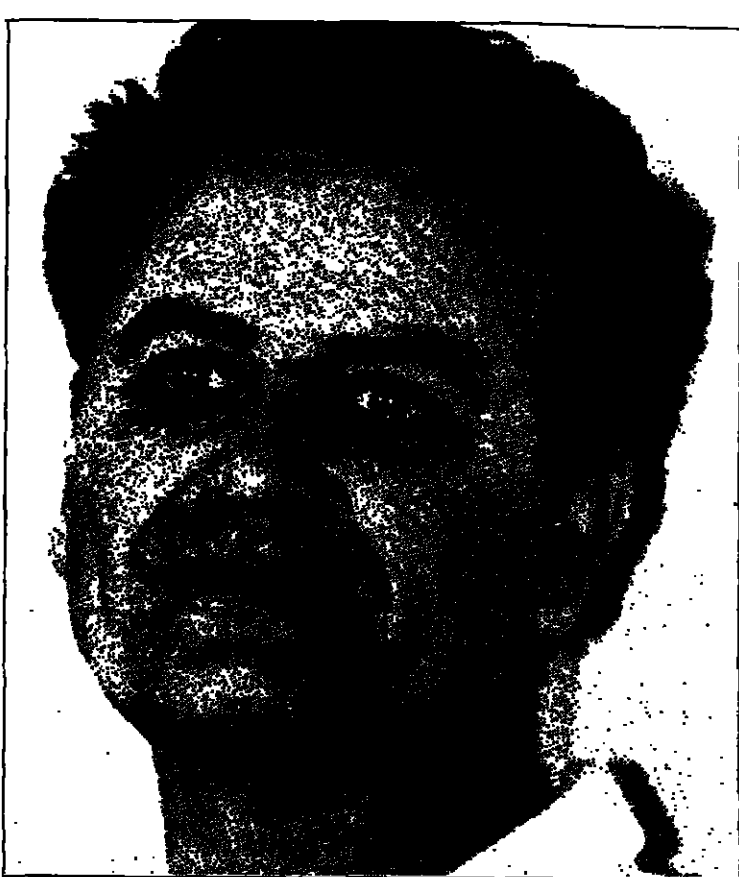
Harish, they volunteered, is a frustrated man. He knows that Rabin does not like him and that the prime minister blames him for mismanaging the internal party campaign which made Shimon Peres's man, Zvilli, the secretary-general. Harish has been in the political doghouse ever since. In the latest furor over the flawed relations inside the cabinet and Rabin's callous treatment of his ministers, Harish's name is said to top the list of ministers whom Rabin would love to fire.

One wagging Labor tongue says, "Harish has not been helped by his underachievement as minister of trade and industry." Rabin, some say, rates Harish's performance in office as below par.

Around Rabin, the mild, lack-luster Harish is depicted as a wild man out of control. They say he is out to wreak vengeance against Rabin by, for instance, allowing the import of nonkosher meat products, knowing full well that this would get Rabin into hot water with Shas. Harish is also, it is alleged, acting out of spite against Zvilli, the cause of his troubles.

Unlike Harish, Baram is somewhat immune to derision, partly because of his prominent position in the intimidating flock of Labor superdoves, whom it is prudent not to take on. Besides, his tour-ism portfolio, a far lighter brief than Harish's, is not one which lends itself easily to charges of failure. But Baram, too, elicited an angry response from Rabin's entourage when he referred to the

Was it the loss of power bases in city halls and the Histadrut, or the toll of government policies? Sarah Honig finds everyone in the party has someone to blame



Zvilli: Finds it expedient to pull back and slow down on the peace process in the next two years. (Tsvetnik/Harari)

tax on the stock-exchange profits as "the last nail in Labor's coffin."

BUT IF Harish and Baram can be accused of spreading gloom and doom to undermine Zvilli, the same charge obviously cannot be leveled at Zvilli himself. Yet he, too, has been issuing warnings and dispensing advice uncharacteristic of the confirmed dove he is. He thus suggested for the record that Labor might find it expedient to "pull back and slow down on the peace process in the next two years."

His time frame is significant, because the next Knesset elections are due in two years. After the 1996 elections, Zvilli candidly states, the peace process — which he admits "is becoming increasingly unpopular and distrusted" — may be picked up again.

Since Zvilli is not their man anyhow, it wasn't difficult for Rabin's men to aim their caustic barbs at him too. Their main charge is that Zvilli is preparing an alibi for himself and passing the buck to others.

An alibi for what? The answer seems to be: For electoral defeat in 1996, which is likely if the dejected mood in Labor is anything to go by. True, a lot may still happen in the second half of Labor's term; but right now the outlook is bleak.

Baram, Harish and Zvilli dared to go on the record, and, with differing degrees of bluntness, expressed apprehension. Most in Labor prefer private conversations, so as not to incur Rabin's wrath, but their sentiments are hardly more upbeat.

The feeling in Labor is that nothing is going right and the polls which show that Rabin might actually lose to the Likud's Benjamin Netanyahu only deepen the gloom.



Harish: Party depression is due to demise of its once formidable infrastructure. (Harari)

Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer's road construction will not relieve general disaffection, another disheartened Labor minister said this week. "By 1996 it will all be taken for granted. The cars are already jamming up these roads and no one will sing the government's praises for the standard of living that makes the purchase of all those cars possible, especially not after it rains and Fuad's highways are all submerged below instant lakes."

Similarly, somewhat lower unemployment figures "don't cheer development-town dwellers or Russian immigrants," and the same minister fears that the economic policy "might drive the country into deep recession. The first to suffer will be the Russians who in 1992 gave Labor the critical leg up to put it just over the top and win power."

These immigrants swung around with alarming speed, it is admitted in Labor, as even a cursory examination of the readers' letters in the Russian-language press indicates.

BUT LOOMING larger than all other reasons for Labor's gloom is the state of the peace that was to be the party's crown jewel.

So far, Syria's Hafez Assad has not cooperated with the Rabin-Peres scheme for a landslide in 1996. And the peace with Jordan has been largely taken in stride, with ebullient enthusiasm limited to Rabin, Peres and Meretz's Yossi Sarid, who so extolled his Jordanian hosts' lavish cuisine this week that he managed to embarrass even some of his Labor pals.

"The average man in the street is less ecstatic about visiting Aqaba, when he can't safely visit Bethlehem," it is said around Zvilli.

Zvilli this week said openly what it was taboo to utter for attribution until now: The number of terror victims since Oslo is double that of the victims of conflict "in the year that preceded the deal with the PLO, and that is intolerable. It induces grave doubts among the general public about where the peace policy is leading."

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Those in the Hashemite Kingdom call it 'Shalom'

Jordanians, hoping for an economic boom from Israeli tourism, are doing their best to make their neighboring visitors feel welcome, Liat Collins reports from Petra

THE sound of gunshots rang out last week as a group of Israelis were touring Petra. The group froze. Each traveler recalled stories of those who had reached the Red Rock but never returned.

The stomach-churning blasts turned out to be part of a British action movie being filmed on location. And the only shooting directed at the visiting Israelis was by a Jordan Television film crew recording the trip for the evening news.

It was another sign of the new relationship between the two countries, which announced diplomatic ties Sunday. Whereas a few months ago the Jordanian media were reluctant to show contacts with Israelis, now they are playing a role in the national effort to encourage Israelis to visit the Hashemite Kingdom and feel welcome there.

The media coverage was all the more unexpected coming immediately after warnings to tourists to avoid attracting attention. The group comprised journalists and travel industry representatives, the guests of Arkia and its Jordanian representative Diana Tours.

No matter how hard we tried to look and act like standard tourists, the locals in Aqaba, Petra and the posh mountain resort of Taybet Zamman identified us as Israelis and greeted us with "Shalom."

The Jordanians evidently want the peace to succeed, and it is easy to see why. Currently a quarter of a million people visit the Hashemite Kingdom each year. With peace, this number is expected to quadruple - mainly with Israeli tourists.

Although it was Israel that declared a "Peace and Tourism Year," it is Jordan that has taken the message to heart. "When the Arabs invite guests, the traditional role of hospitality is impossible to suppress," says Diana Tours director Douad Qutob. "We welcome you from the heart and each tour is a *petah tikva* [gate of hope] to closer relations and love between two brothers and sons of

Ibrahim," he says, paraphrasing Crown Prince Hassan's speech at the Arava peace-signing ceremony in October.

"Most Jordanians agree with the peace treaty. They feel it is the only way after all those years of fighting. Also we have faith in the king," says JTV reporter Omar Kreshan. Despite his insistence that only a small minority oppose ties with Israel, he admits his mother's family is ambivalent about them. "Her brother was killed in Palestine, so it's not easy for her to forget this. But," he adds hastily, "I like meeting Israelis."

Jamil Twaissi, the assistant financial controller of Petra's Forum Hotel, agrees with Kreshan. "It is the only way for our children to grow up in peace," he says. "But we need time to overcome the years of hostility and suspicion. We need to make a psychological peace and this is not done overnight."

Like all Jordanians we meet, Twaissi states his full trust in King Hussein - "everyone admires him" - and does not believe Palestinian opposition to peace will torpedo it. "The Palestinians here live under the king's rule, and if they don't like it they can move to the West Bank or somewhere," he says.

Twaissi is surprised that Israelis fear for their safety in Jordan. "There is no need to worry. Hurting tourists would cause economic damage and who would want to do that?" He says he "knows of no Islamic Jihad or Hamas call to attack the visitors. Nobody would dream of harming a guest."

Another reason visitors to Aqaba and Petra can feel safe is the relative absence of Palestinians in southern Jordan. Whereas some hostility might be encountered in Amman and the north, it is rare in the southern resorts which are clearly undergoing an economic boom. Kreshan and Twaissi note.

The financial aspect is crucial. Although currently only organized tour groups are permitted, individual travel is expected to follow shortly. At the micro level,



Aqaba street vendors who sell the traditional bottles of colored sand pictures are ready for Israeli tourists with peace theme designs. (Liat Collins)

Aqaba street vendors who sell the traditional bottles of colored sand pictures are ready for the tourists with designs showing the flags of

both countries and the word "peace." On a larger scale, hotels are being built all around Aqaba and Wadi Musa-Petra to meet the

expected influx of visitors. In Wadi Musa negotiations are well under way for a giant kosher restaurant and hotel. Orthodox Is-

Hebrew is alive and well in Jordan

JAMIL Twaissi's four-year-old son can count to 10 - in Hebrew.

"He's learning Hebrew from your television," his father notes. Everyone in Jordan watches Israeli television and it seems most people are learning Hebrew. "It used to be the only station we could get in the south until we got a satellite link," Twaissi explains. He likes to keep up with the news via ITV and approves of the new Channel 2, "although there is a lot more Hebrew on it."

Many of the vendors at Petra say they want to learn to count in Hebrew. One knows nothing but the phrase: "Shalom zeh tov" (peace is good).

Sultan, who leads horses down the corridor to the ancient city, also thinks peace is good. His Hebrew is still limited to the words "Tel Aviv," but he accepts a tip in shekels nonetheless. L.C.

raelis are expected to visit the "Valley of Moses," just outside Petra, to see the spot traditionally considered to be where Moses struck the rock and water gushed out. They will also probably flock to Aaron's tomb and Mount Nevo.

The Edom Hotel, where we spent the night, is so new that the elevator has yet to be installed. And despite the bitterly cold weather, and lukewarm tapwater, a swarm of flies settled in the bathroom, making it easy to understand why the topic of pest control is so high on the agenda of the environment bilateral talks.

Still, what is lacking in comfort is made up for in hospitality. The whole village depends on tourism and whole families try to make the Israelis feel welcome.

The local Ma'an Folklore Dance Group puts its best foot forward for peace. The group has won acclaim from Baghdad to Saudi Arabia. Star dancer Ali Hammad is the size of an over-conscious food critic, but when he dances it is from the soul. And when he kicks and brandishes a sword you find yourself praying someone has told him about the peace treaty. The group has not heard of the annual Karmiel dance festival, but shows interest - "as long as it doesn't stop us performing in Arab countries too."

"WHY DO you all want to go to Petra?" asks JTV English-language news director Mureed Hammad, who has met and worked with many Israelis during the peace talks and celebrations. Riyal Qutob, Douad's son and employee in the family's travel business, is also surprised by the

mythical proportions of Petra in the Israeli mind. He has never seen the ancient city. "You know how it is when you live somewhere. You just don't see the local sights; you're too busy working or with your family."

He doesn't know what he's missing. Poet Dean Burgon, who described Petra as "a rose-red city half as old as Time," conveyed only part of its splendor and fascination. And the over-eager souvenir hawkers are not out of place here. They make you realize the Nabatean commercial instinct did not disappear over the centuries the city was lost.

Coming out of the ancient city we visit the local arts and crafts center. Here we see the only indication that the peace has yet to fully take hold. On sale is a tapestry showing a map of Israel and the West Bank, two clenched fists and the PLO flag.

Douad Qutob, clearly embarrassed, says: "It must be old. And you see no one buys it."

Amina from the Wadi Musa Women's Association is selling handicrafts to raise money for her group. "Peace is good because instead of spending money on war, we help improve the lives of the people, to educate them, and teach them about health," Amina tells the first Israelis she has ever spoken to.

Tour guide Khaled Twaissi discovers, however, that peace is not going to be professionally easy. Struggling to make his explanations clear to Israelis who prefer to wander off to shop, Twaissi concludes: "The Arabs and the Israelis are just the same. They have no concentration. They are very nice but rather difficult people, no?"

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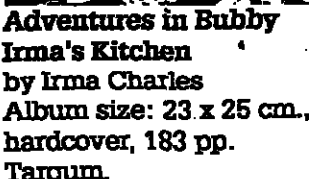
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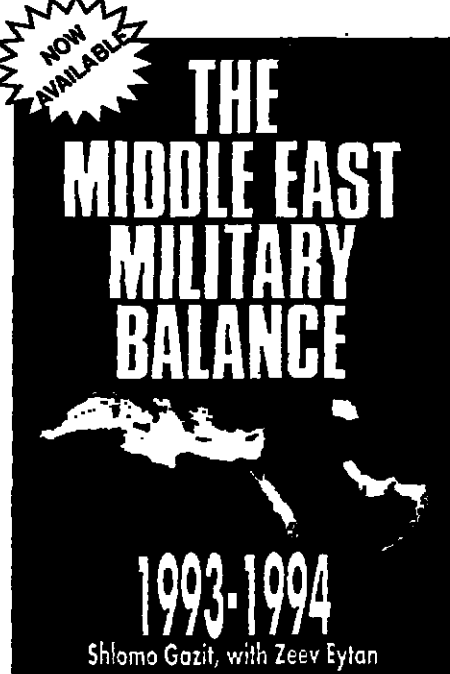
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1993 - 1994
Edited by Shlomo Gazit, with Zeev Eytan

The tenth annual edition of the Middle East Military Balance, published by Tel Aviv University's prestigious Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies, comprises, as always, a thorough, up-to-date listing of all military and related strategic capabilities of all countries in the region, as well as the PLO; comparative tables and detailed glossary. The volume's Survey of Strategic Developments includes an extensive analytic description of the Israel-Arab peace process, along with detailed and innovative chapters on the Iranian threat, the impact of new technologies on the strategy balance, Israel's qualitative edge, arms control and non-conventional proliferation in the region, Palestinian and Hizbullah terrorism, and the American and European roles in the peace process.

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WET ROADS! DRIVE SLOWLY!

US political rumbles won't shake Israel

CAPITAL TALK

TEDDY KOLLEK with Amos Kollek

Is it good for Israel or bad for Israel? I mean, of course, the recent US election in which the Republicans gained control of both the House of Representatives and the Senate. It was a major change, far greater than had been expected.

My conviction is that on the two most crucial issues – American aid to Israel and the peace process – not much will change.

The US has an important stake in our country, partly on principle, because it is the only democracy in the area, but mostly because of oil. As long as there is tension in this region, the supply of oil could be endangered.

Moreover, the Arabs have proved again and again that they often base decisions not on rationalized policies but on emotional responses. This means that there is an ever-present threat of war and that oil supplies are never assured.

Thus any American government – Democratic or Republican – is certain to support Israel and support the peace process.

American aid will probably not diminish, but it may be renamed as "military aid" and not officially considered as civilian or economic aid.

As for the peace process, a formula can be found that will be acceptable to both President Clinton and the Republican-controlled houses.

We heard Republican Senator Robert Dole of Kansas stating only recently that there can be absolutely no American troops on the Golan, and then a short time later modifying his statement by adding that, of course, American soldiers within a multinational force would be a whole other matter.

There is not much difference between the Democrats and Republicans regarding the peace process.

I had a good experience with North Carolina Republican Senator Jesse Helms, who will be the chairman of the foreign affairs committee and whose isolationist views worry people throughout the world. The issue we discussed was the Christian minorities in Jerusalem, particularly the Baptists.

I was able to satisfy his concerns, and he helped us greatly on a very important issue, by introducing a Senate resolution obligating the administration – when it constructs a new embassy building – to build in both Tel Aviv and Jerusalem complexes suitable for either an embassy or a consulate.

I certainly don't see Helms as a foe, nor do I class the other more recent arrivals on Capitol Hill as foes.

There is a tremendous task ahead of educating

the new cadre of Republican senators and congressmen. But this may be a blessing in disguise, because it could revitalize the American-Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), which has had a diminished role to play, especially since the peace-pact ceremony on the White House lawn in September 1993.

We need a strong AIPAC, but it was in danger of becoming obsolete. It is our strongest link to Diaspora Jews, and is essential to the well-being of Israel and the Jewish people.

I remember how, in 1951, a couple of friends and I were able to obtain the first substantial American economic aid, \$70 million, which wiped out all our foreign-exchange debts at the time. We went from state to state, and through mutual friends persuaded every senator and congressman individually to support the resolution. Today a much larger machine is needed to handle such tasks – and that is AIPAC.

IT IS worth noting how much progress has been achieved in US-Israel relations, under both Democratic and Republican administrations. In the last couple of decades, arranging a meeting between our prime minister and the US president has become quite easy. It wasn't always so.

Though Truman was quick to recognize Israel after independence was declared, relationships with subsequent presidents were distant. Getting to Eisenhower was practically impossible. As commander of the Allied forces in Europe he had been very sensitive to the sufferings of Jews in the Holocaust. But he had no special warmth for Israel; it seemed a strange thing to him.

Arranging a meeting between Ben-Gurion and Eisenhower took extraordinary efforts. It was finally arranged through the director of the CIA, Allen Dulles, whom we were helping with important information about the Soviet Union at a time when the CIA had not yet developed sources of its own. Still, the Americans were suspicious of Israel because the prevailing notion was that it was filled with communist agents who had come as immigrants from behind the Iron Curtain.

That distance and distrust still existed to some extent with Kennedy.

The Americans gradually realized Israel wasn't a communist satellite but a solid nation they could rely on. Since then, their support has been unflinching, and I have no doubt that it will continue that way.

The anatomy of a fabrication

EYE ON THE MEDIA

DAVID BAR-ILLAN

THE Arizona State University daily, *State Press*, published a story on November 15 by Mary Leigh Summerton headlined, "Hear no evil, see no evil, report no evil: Middle East terrorists not always part of news." It read as follows:

"I watched in horror as the thin, dark-haired European Jew was stoned to death 50 feet in front of me. I could do nothing."

"He screamed in terror as stones thrown by adults and children slammed into his face. He didn't even hold up his hands to protect himself. He couldn't. All he could do was die slowly."

"The man was quadriplegic and unable to move most of his body, except his head and the fingers of his hands. Those fingers operated his electric wheelchair, his only freedom, and – ironically – the ultimate cause of his death."

"He, like millions of other people last year, was visiting the Western Wall, or Wailing Wall, in Jerusalem, to pray. I was there, too, part of a group of college students who were on a United Nations-sponsored trip to the Middle East."

"The man died because it was Saturday, the Sabbath... From Friday at sundown until sundown Saturday, observant Jews do not operate electricity. The nameless man was using his electric wheelchair. Tragically for him, he chose Saturday for his visit..."

"...a Hasidic or ultra-orthodox Jew, with a long gray beard and dressed all in black... cocked his arm and flung [a] rock at the man in the wheelchair. The rock hit him in the middle of his forehead... blood oozed down his face."

"Then the adorable little children... turned into savages and started picking up rocks and hurling them at the man. The boys cursed the man in Hebrew and English and spat in his face. One taller boy grabbed the yarmulke... and threw it back and forth to another boy over the wheelchair in a sadistic game of keep-away."

"The man's first high-pitched shriek interrupted the mumbling of the women, who are not permitted to speak out loud. They observe a sign at the entrance to the Wall which reads in Hebrew: 'A woman's voice is like her gentailia.' It, like many things in the Middle East, should be hidden..."

"People not participating in the stoning, continued to pray as if it were an everyday occurrence... I could smell the man's blood and felt faint. He fell from his wheelchair, to the ground."

"I looked away. It took the man less than 10 minutes to die. His limp body and the wheelchair ultimately were carried away by the military personnel. They did nothing to stop the stoning, apparently assuming that the man was getting just punishment for his crime: using electricity on the Sabbath."

"The next morning, the English-speaking newspaper identified the man as simply a Euro-

pean Jew who died in Jerusalem. Nothing was said of the hate and violence that transpired in the name of religion. Nothing was said of a government based on protecting people who would kill for a transgression of the rules. Nothing was said about the life of a thin, dark-haired European Jew who went to pray on a hot, summer Saturday morning."

NO SANE Israeli would fail to recognize this story as a pathological fantasy. It not only accuses Israeli men, women and children of a savage public lynching of a quadriplegic, but charges that the Israeli army was an accomplice in the crime, and that the Israeli government and press (specifically *The Jerusalem Post*) participated in its coverup. And yet it is tempting to dismiss the publication of the story as an inconsequential event. Arizona State University may be large – its enrollment is about 35,000 – but Harvard or Columbia it is not.

Some facts, though, cannot be ignored: ASU graduates are reporters on major newspapers, including *The Washington Post*, *Los Angeles Times* and the *Miami Herald*. Summerton was city editor and managing editor of the *State Press* last year and a reporter on the city paper *Mesa Tribune*.

Nor was the article published inadvertently. It was approved by the paper's editor, Jason Owsley; by dean of ASU's Walter Cronkite School of Journalism Douglas Anderson; and by Bruce Iule, the head of publications. Dean Anderson told Arizona law student David Don, a Hillel member who inquired about the story, "Nothing in it seemed to raise a red flag warranting further fact-checking." He told another student, Sharon Geyer, he saw "nothing wrong with the story."

But after several students challenged Summerton's tale, the paper published a front-page message on the following Friday: "...The *State Press* regrets that it printed the column without first confirming the contents. As of today, the *State Press* cannot confirm, and the writer has been unable to provide verification, for the column. The *State Press* and the writer apologize for the damaging information and accusations published in the column."

Besieged by protests, the university gave Summerton 10 days to come up with verification. On Monday of this week she broke down and, according to the *Arizona Republic* and the *Mesa Tribune*, admitted that the article was a fabrication. On Tuesday, the *State Press* published a lengthy editorial headed "State Press repentance," stating that the story was not true.

"We can only apologize, take internal action, and promise that to the best of our efforts this won't happen again..." it concluded.

Summerton may be a pathological liar, but her story did not originate in thin air. Though she wrote it in the first person, she also told the paper that she heard of the incident from peace activist Anat Hoffman, whose lecture she attended while in Jerusalem on a tour sponsored by the Anti-Defamation League.

A LEADER of the militant "peace" group Women in Black, Hoffman fights not only against what she calls "the occupation" but for the right of women to conduct services at the Wall in defiance of Orthodox Jewish tradition. These "Women of the Wall" have been harassed and even slapped by a few self-appointed guardians of the Wall's moral standards, to Hoffman's just outrage.

An ardent crusader, Hoffman speaks to groups here and abroad about this blight on Israel's democracy. Portraying fundamentalist Jews as fossilized monsters, Hoffman tells her credulous audiences (as she did on the BBC-TV program *Daughters of Abraham*) the Talmud says "listening to a woman's voice is like looking at her genitalia." In fact, the talmudic epigram *kol b'isha ervat* means that a woman's singing is lascivious. But Hoffman's pornographic interpretation undoubtedly excites her audience more. Summerton was excited enough to place it as "a sign at the entrance to the Wall" in her lynching fantasy.

ANOTHER STORY Hoffman likes to tell is of a quadriplegic who was forced to leave the Wall plaza because he insisted on operating his electric wheelchair on Shabbat. (What she does not mention is that the worshippers offered to push the wheelchair, but, unlike two other quadriplegics who were with him, he refused the offer.)

The insignificant incident, which Summerton turned into an "unreported" public lynching, was reported in the local Jerusalem weekly *Kol Ha'ir* of July 2, 1993. The man, not a nameless European but a 19-year-old Israeli named Yaviv Trabelsi whose picture appeared with the story, was unscathed.

The ASU professors and editors would probably bristle at the suggestion that only antisemites can "see nothing wrong" with Summerton's story. Yet the painful truth is such a fabrication about any other democratic nation could never enter a US university newspaper.

Nor are the Arizonans the only culprits. Their readiness to believe the most egregious horrors about Israel is at least partly due to the disproportionate, indiscriminate and irresponsible trumpeting of Israel's real and imagined sins before impressionable foreign groups by Hoffman and her colleagues.

Of mutable interests

VIEW FROM NOV

MOSHE KOHN

WHO is the Jew who does not remember that the ancient Romans conquered Jerusalem and destroyed the Second Temple in 70 CE, and razed the city and turned the Temple Mount into a pagan shrine 65 years later?

How many remember, however, that the Romans had arrived in Jerusalem in the first place, not as an invading enemy but as an invited ally?

IT ALL began in 161 BCE.

As reported in I Maccabees 7-9, Judah the Maccabee's forces had just crushed the Greek Syrian Seleucid forces led by Nicanor. Judah decided to befriend the Romans, because they were rising as a serious challenge to the Greeks, whose Syrian Seleucid branch was making repeated efforts to conquer Judea and extirpate the practice of Judaism.

Moreover, the Romans "were renowned for... the welcome they gave to those who became their allies; any who joined them could be sure of their firm friendship."

Judah sent a delegation, headed by two of his nephews, to Rome, with the aim of concluding "a treaty of friendship and alliance, so the Romans might rid them of tyranny, for it was clear that the Greek empire was reducing them to slavery."

The Roman Senate liked the idea and sent its reply to Jerusalem, "inscribed on tablets of bronze... so the Jews might have a record of the treaty..."

The pact required the Jews to help Rome or any of her allies if they were attacked by an enemy, and promised the Jews "hearty support as occasion may require" if they were attacked.

It stipulated that if the two parties "shall agree to add or rescind anything, then they shall do as they decide. Any such addition or rescission shall be valid."

When the time came, of course, the Romans did "do as they decide": They decided not to help when, in 160 BCE, Demetrius I tried to restore Syrian suzerainty over Eretz Yisrael. In the battle against the invading army led by Bacchides, Demetrius' general, Judah was killed.

THE ROMANS arrived some 95 years later, with a vengeance. They were led here by Pompey, the great general and one-time triumvir with Julius Caesar and Crassus.

Pompey had just conquered Damascus from the Seleucids. In Judea, High Priest and King Yohanan Hyrcanus II, the elder son and successor of the late Hasmonean King Alexander Yannai and Queen Salome Alexandra (Shlomzion), was defending his throne against an insurrection by his ambitious brother, Yehuda Aristobulus.

The two factions appealed to Pompey to arbitrate in their fratricidal war.

So in 64 CE, Pompey, at the invitation of the Jews, invaded the land of Syria Palaestina, as the Greco/Romans called Eretz Yisrael, and entered Jerusalem. Here he was welcomed by Hyrcanus and his forces.

The following year, in the course of fighting Aristobulus' forces, Pompey stormed the Temple, slaughtering its defenders, robbing its treasury and entering the Holy of Holies, but leaving the structure intact.

Pompey did all this in the course of siding with Hyrcanus, the weaker and more pliant of the two brothers.

He went on to remove from Jewish control vital areas of Eretz Yisrael, including large areas of Transjordan, reducing Hyrcanus to a vassal and his kingdom to a tributary of Rome.

Thus Pompey, here at the invitation of the Jews, effectively ended Jewish sovereignty in Jerusalem until 1948, except for the few years of the Great Revolt that led to the destruction of the Temple in 70 CE, and the few years of the Bar-Kochba Revolt that ended in the Romans' razing of the city in 135 CE.

THE OUTCOME of the Hasmonean fratricidal war, like the outcome of the fratricidal Jewish wars during the Great Revolt period, are classical examples of how, in

the words of Rabbi Elazar (or Eliezer) Hakappar, "A quarrel-ridden house is doomed to destruction" (*Derech Eretz Zuta* 9).

And the outcome of the invitation to Pompey to intervene in our affairs is a classic example of the truth of Agnes Repplier's observation, "The friendship of nations, built on common interests, cannot survive the mutability of those interests" (*Under Dispute*).

Another example was the reliance of Judah the Maccabee's brother Shimon on the Syrian Seleucid King Antiochus VII Sides. After Judah was killed, their brother Jonathan had taken over the leadership. When Jonathan was taken prisoner by the Seleucids, who subsequently murdered him, Shimon succeeded him.

In about 135 BCE, we are told in I Maccabees 15, Antiochus, bent on reviving the shattered Seleucid empire, "repudiated all his previous agreements with Shimon and severed relations."

In the course of an initially successful military campaign, he demanded that Shimon "return" to the Syrians Jaffa, Gezer and the Citadel in Jerusalem, which "belong to my kingdom." He also demanded "the return of the cities you have captured and the surrender of the tribute exacted from places beyond the frontiers of Judea over which you have assumed control."

Unless Shimon obeyed and also compensated him for "the destruction you have caused" and for the loss of tribute from those cities, Antiochus threatened, "we shall go to war against you."

Shimon's reply is still timely: "We have not occupied other people's land or taken other people's property, but only the inheritance of our ancestors, unjustly seized for a time by our enemies. We have grasped our opportunity and claimed our patrimony. With regard to Jaffa and Gezer – those towns were doing a great deal of damage among our people and in our land..."

After a series of victories over Antiochus' forces, Shimon was murdered by his greedy, ambitious son-in-law Ptolemy.

SRULIK



Performance, not potential, is what counts

SHABBAT SHALOM

SHLOMO RISKIN

BEING raised in the Diaspora exacts a price. Some Jews take their first steps toward assimilation when surrounded by the glittering colors of Christmas, while all the Jews have are the few candles of Hanukka.

To the untrained eye, lighting the hanukkia seems meager. However, it represents not only a military and spiritual victory, but a philosophy of life antithetical to that of the Hellenists.

Why should the miracle of the day's worth of pure oil that burned for eight days result in the ritual of adding another light each night? Why don't we start with eight candles and conclude with one on the eighth night?

This question is the subject of a dispute in the Talmud, between the academies of Shammai and Hillel (*Shabbat*, 21b). As in most cases, our sages rule with Beit Hillel, that we go from one light to eight during Hanukka.

What issues are at stake? Rabbi Shmuel Yosef Zevin, a leading Jerusalem talmudist of the previous generation, argues, in his work *Le'or Hahalacha*, that Hillel and Shammai represent differing outlooks: Beit Hillel looks at the world as it is now; Beit Shammai stresses a thing's potential.

WHAT BLESSING should be re-

cited when, at *havdala*, we light our first fire after the Sabbath? Beit Hillel says the blessing closes with the words "borei me'orei ha'esh" ("who creates lights of fire"). Beit Shammai rules that we should say, "bara me'or ha'esh" ("who created the light of fire") (*Brachot* 51b).

In the blessing of Beit Hillel, "cre te" is in the present tense and light is in the plural, while Beit Shammai has "create" in the past tense and "light" in the singular.

According to Rabbi Zevin, Beit Shammai argues that all light for the rest of time came into existence in potential when God said, "Let there be light." That's why Shammai used the past tense and the singular.

But Beit Hillel deals with the light we see, taking it as the reality over which we make our blessing. We, therefore, use the present tense and include the many lights before us. (*Havdala* must be made over at least two flames.)

NOW LET'S apply these guidelines to the lighting of candles on

Hanukka. According to Beit Shammai, the miracle of Hanukka is that the cruse of oil found on the first day already had the potential to last eight days. Since Beit Shammai's focus is on potential, it calls for first lighting eight candles.

Beit Hillel, however, concentrates on the actual. Since the first day saw the light of one day in the menorah of the Holy Temple, we begin the festival by lighting one candle. Since each day demonstrated the increase in the miracle, we increase our candles every day in accordance with what actually occurred each day.

The implication of Rabbi Zevin's theory is that the sages usually rule in favor of Beit Hillel not because they prefer the lenient to the strict, but rather because Jewish law prefers the actual to the potential. We see it all around us. Judaism is first and foremost a religion of action, of commandments. First we do, and then we understand (*na'aseh v'nishma*), not the other way around.

One of the major differences between traditional Judaism and the assimilationist Hellenism over

which it prevailed is that while meditation and intellectual wisdom are the highest values for the Greeks (witness Plato and Aristotle), moral and ethical conduct is the highest value for Jews. It is not so much what you know, but rather what you do that counts. We are judged by actual, not potential, accomplishment. Beit Hillel's rulings express this.

This does not mean potential can be disregarded, nor is it disregarded by our biblical and talmudic traditions. We have read in the last few Torah portions about the enormous potential hidden in Joseph's dreams, and our sages place laudatory emphasis on the value of Torah study.

But we've all known people with enormous potential, with far-reaching dreams, who never quite succeed in getting their act together. In the final analysis, potential is not sufficient. The real test of the individual is in the actual performance of the commandments; not in what he can do, but in what he does.

People, as well as nations, are far better off building up to a great light as a result of daily increments of proper action, than by starting off with a blaze of light and fading out with a sputter.

Shabbat Shalom and Happy Hanukka!

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Mizrahi buyers now must sell it to consumers

United Mizrahi Bank's new proprietors are likely to try to broaden its retail appeal, Neil Cohen comments

MUZI Wertheim and Yuli Ofer are among the nation's most publicity-shy businessmen.

They may find that as the new proprietors of the country's fifth-largest bank, United Mizrahi, they will have little choice but to face the camera and the interviewer rather more often.

Still, Ofer's theatrically brusque departure from a news conference this week suggests that he may not have adjusted to the inevitable glare of the public eye.

Subject to some regulatory approvals, including that of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, the pair last weekend won control of United Mizrahi Bank.

They will pay \$110 million for a 26-percent stake in the bank, and they will have the option to acquire another 25 percent from the government at the same price (plus indexation and 3-percent interest).

Ofer and Wertheim said this week that they fully intend to exercise the option.

The sale of the bank comes at the end of a protracted process which was at times seriously embarrassing to the government.

In August 1992, the government agreed to sell control of Mizrahi to businessman Gad Ze'evi. The deal fell apart several months later when Ze'evi was denied regulatory approval.

The most recent sales process

saw a number of consortia form and break up. Only two stayed the course: one comprising real-estate developer Alfred Akrov and the diamondaire Steinmetz family, and the Ofer-Wertheim consortium, half of which is owned by the Ofer family, with the rest evenly divided between Wertheim and Abe Feinberg.

Feinberg brought Coca-Cola to the country and owns 60 percent of the franchisee, the Central Bottling Co. Wertheim, a Mossad veteran, has managed Central Bottling for the last 26 years and owns 10 percent of the company.

Feinberg, Wertheim and Ofer have done a number of deals together in the last few years, most notably the development of the Herzliya marina.

DELAYS WERE not the only problem in the Mizrahi sales process.

Ofer, whose interests range from shipping to oil to real estate to industry, was indicted in August 1993 for falsifying tax records in connection with fictitious receipts issued for donations to the Likud Party. The indictment is still pending.

The sale of the controlling interest in United Mizrahi was held up by accusations that Ofer bought information supposedly regarding Mizrahi's tax problems from former *Globe* journalist Doron Rosensweig.



Yuli Ofer (left) and Muzi Wertheim bought the controlling interest in United Mizrahi Bank after a lengthy sales process.



Bank of Israel Supervisor of Banks Ze'ev Abeles said last month that a special Bank of Israel staff had reviewed the case and found that the information Rosensweig sold Ofer did not provide him with an advantage over the competition in the sales process.

The State Attorney's Office is investigating whether the purchase of the information was legal, according to Abeles.

The Bank of Israel gave the go-ahead for the sale on condition that Ofer refrain from now from taking part in the bank's management. Wertheim said this week that he has every intention of consulting Ofer and is not restricted from doing so.

In addition to those complications, Ofer-controlled companies invested NIS 30 million in the insurance company Hassneh shortly before its collapse. A Mizrahi de-

positor, Daniel Harson, in September challenged Ofer's suitability to acquire the bank.

Harson argued that Ofer's failure to foresee or prevent Hassneh's collapse rendered Ofer unfit to control a major bank. The High Court threw out the petition the same month.

UNITED MIZRAHI BANK has flourished of late after a number of years, sometimes money-losing years.

Its current success has been rather narrowly based, however, depending to a large extent on its 85-percent stake in Bank Tefahot, the country's largest mortgage bank, and Mizrahi's strong position in the securities market.

The aggressive positions the bank took in the stock market resulted in the provident and mutual funds it manages being leading

performers. However, the fall in the stock market and the drop in turnover has hurt the bank's profitability more than other banks, whose operations are more diversified.

Since Ofer and Wertheim are prevented by the terms of the sale contract from floating the bank for the next three years or selling their controlling interest for five, and will likely be prevented from taking a dividend for some time because of the bank's accumulated losses, they will probably take a medium- to long-term view of their investment.

Notwithstanding their pronouncements, there has been speculation that they might sell or float off Bank Tefahot, the proceeds from which would cover most of the purchase price. But unless they have an alternative home for the cash a flotation or

sale would generate, this seems an unlikely course in the immediate future.

There has similarly been speculation in the media and among bank insiders over the future of the bank's senior management, and particularly managing director David Bloomberg.

Wertheim said this week that no changes are planned. Bank sources say Bloomberg takes the view that what affords him the most security is the shortage of capable and experienced senior bankers in the country.

Mizrahi has been without a real owner for some time (neither the Mizrahi movement nor the government qualifies). Wertheim is a canny and competitive consumer marketer, and it is reasonable to expect that he will try to broaden the bank's retail appeal and hone its competitive edge.

China watchers wonder if expected gains are worth the risks

IS China an El Dorado or a bottomless pit?

This question, posed by a regional banking review published last month by stockbrokers S.G. Warburg, is on the lips of many businessmen who are finding it tough to make the money they had hoped off China's experiment with capitalist markets.

If the China boom of the past two years was a champagne celebration of giddy forecasts of great success, the China trade may now be entering a painful morning after.

with the headaches of high costs and political and economic risks compounded by questions of credit worthiness.

Recent publicity surrounding two particular cases has set off alarm bells in some companies that had suffered in silence over their China problems, hoping acceptance of losses now might buy Beijing's good will in the future.

In one, Wall Street giant Lehman Brothers decided to play tough, taking some of China's state-owned trading kingpins to

Investors are finding the Chinese have yet to learn Western-style capitalism. David Schlesinger reports from Hong Kong

court in the US to recover \$100 million the Chinese firms allegedly lost in foreign-exchange transactions.

In the other, Beijing's premier foreign-oriented company, China International Trust and Investment Corp. (CITIC), is at loggerheads with London Metal Exchange brokers over \$40 million in debt allegedly run up by brokers in CITIC's Shanghai office.

"This whole thing has focused people's attention on the risk factor," said a Hong Kong-based banker who has been involved in highly touted but not very profitable China deals. "China is going to have to play by the rules."

BUSINESSPEOPLE trying to make money in China complain of a host of problems.

Corruption can be rampant, negotiations can be protracted, bureaucracy can be stultifying and contracts, even once finalized, can be open for renegotiation.

Chinese state companies, eager to get foreign money in the face of a domestic credit squeeze, can be cavalier when it comes to the facts and figures Western lenders expect.

"They want the money and will tell you a great story of what they're going to do with it, but when the money comes in they use it for real-estate investment or for-

foreign exchange trading," another Hong Kong-based investment banker said.

"Too many times people will say whatever comes into their heads during 'due diligence,' and the people who come out from New York just don't know how to evaluate it."

Due diligence is the process of ensuring a deal is proper and that all legal, financial and regulatory demands are met.

Some in the China trade believe Western companies are to blame for many of the difficulties.

Knowing that China has traditionally valued *guanxi*, or contacts and relationships, in doing business, they have bent the standards they applied elsewhere, to build friendships they hoped would eventually bear fruit.

Bankers warned that in the market for foreign funds, China now faces keen competition from other Asian nations, some of which are building better records as partners than Beijing.

Since China plans to double its

investment in infrastructure over the next decade to \$500 billion, much of which will have to be funded from foreign sources, Beijing will have to ensure that foreigners actually manage to turn a healthy profit if it wants to get the funds it needs, they said.

IF RECENT enthusiasm over the potential for making money out of China was overdone, some analysts warn that there is no reason for an excess of pessimism either.

"Basically, the credit standing for most of the Chinese companies [looking for foreign funds] is good," said N.K. Mak, senior economist at Standard Chartered Bank. "Maybe only in a few cases they have problems."

And while China's foreign debt is expected to rise to \$100 billion this year from \$83.5b. at the end of 1993, by most economic measures its burden is manageable.

With an export-led economic boom still in progress, Beijing should, in theory, be able to meet its obligations. (Reuters)

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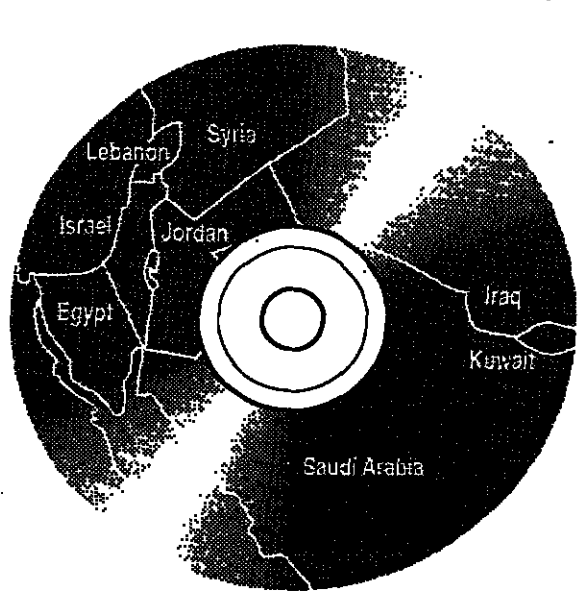
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How the best players do it

TOUGH. That's the only way to describe this year's Rishon LeZion Grandmaster Tournament (November 14 to 26). Of the 12 players, all but three were from the CIS, and six were grandmasters. The lowest-rated player, Boris Kanstler, was former Soviet junior champion.

The two players who seemed to have the most energy — Yehuda Gruenfeld and Yona Kosashvili — finished strongly when many of the players were starting to tire.

Final scores: 1st: Gruenfeld and Kosashvili, 7½; 2nd: Valery Beim, Alexander Chernin, Boris Altman and myself, 6½; 7th: Liss and Leonid Shmutter, 5½; 9th: Emil Sutovsky, 5; 10th: Leonid Gofstein and Yakov Zilberman, 3½; 12th: Boris Kanstler, 3.

A blitz tournament just at the end was won by Sutovsky.

A key moment in Gruenfeld's leap to success was his penultimate round game against me. For the early part of the game White was in control, but as we ran short of time, Black wriggled free.

Davies, N. — Gruenfeld, Y. King's Indian Defense 1.d4 Nf6 2.Ng3 g6 3.g3 Bg7 4.Bg2 0-0 5.0-0 d6 6.b3

Seeing Black's aggressive intentions (previously Gruenfeld has played 2...e6 against me), I adopt a move against which the best for Black, 6...e5, involves simplification. Gruenfeld fails to properly contest the center.

6...a5 7.Bb2 Ne4 8.Nbd2 f5 9.c4 e6 10.e3 Nf6 11.Qe2 Ne6 12.Ne1 Nd7 13.a3 e5 14.d5 Ne7 15.Nd3 g5 16.f4 Nd6 17.Rae1 gxf4 18.exf4 e4 19.Bxg7 Kxg7 20.Nf2

If White can bring his knights to good squares (d4 and e3 would be ideal) then Black will have to suffer a lot. Over the next few moves

CHESS

NIGEL DAVIES

Black manages, with energetic play, to thwart this idea. 18...Qf6 21.Kh1 Ne5 22.b4 axb4 23.cxb4 Na4 24.Nd1 h5

At the moment a defensive measure against a White g3-g4 break. But later on this pawn becomes very irritating indeed. 25.Nb3 Bd7 26.Qd2 Nb6 27.Na5 Rf6 28.Ne3

There may have been better ways to proceed. The text allows invasion of Black's knight by weakening control of b2.

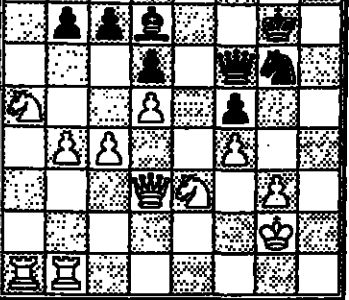
29...Na4 29...Ra1 Nb2 30.Rfb1 Nd3 31.Bf1 b4 32.Bxd3

Short of time, I choose the most natural-looking move.

32...exd3 33.Qxd3 hxxg3 34.hxxg3 Rh8+ 35.Kg2?

After Black's reply I see no defense for White, so this is probably the decisive mistake. The same sacrifice would also follow 35.Kg1, but then matters would be far less clear due to the possibility of interposing the knight on g2.

I had rejected 35.Kg1 because of 35...Rh3, not seeing that 36.Ng2 is a solid defense.



35...Nx4f4!! 36.gxf4 Qg6+ 37.Kf3 Rh3+ 38.Ke2 Rh2+ 39.Kd1 Re8 40.Kc1 Qg1+

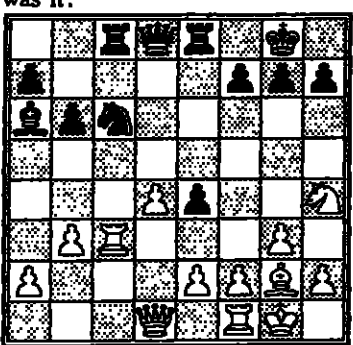
Played literally one second before losing on time. Chess players will live longer when we use the Fischer-clock and time limit.

When the dust cleared I was amazed to discover that White is unable to put up any kind of resistance, despite his extra piece. 41.Nd1 Re2 42.Nb3 Kf7 43.Ra8 Qg2 44.Na1

I saw that this was hopeless but the threat is 44...Rc2+ and 44.Nd4 is also met by 44...Rd2. 44...Rd2 45.Qb3 Qf1 0-1

There is no good defense to the threat is 46...Rxd1+ 47.Qxd1 Qxf4+ followed by mate.

THIS WEEK'S problem is from the first round game Kanstler — Gofstein in which Black to play sprang a diabolical surprise. What was it?



Solution: Black won with 1...Bxc2! 2.Qxe2 Nxd4 after which protecting the rook with 3.Qb2, for example, loses to simply 3...Rxc3 4.Qxc3 Ne2+. Kanstler chose to give up his queen with 3.Qxe4, but resigned after the moves 3...Ne2+ 4.Kh1 Rxe4 5.Rxc8 Qxc8 6.Bxe4 g6 7.Nf3 Qa6 8.Ra1 Nc3 9.Ba8 Qe2.



When gazelles were allowed to multiply freely, they spread disease to cattle and competed with them for pasture. (B. Hender)

A delicate balance

NATURE

D'VORA BEN SHAUL

THE very words "wildlife management" are anathema for some nature lovers. Nature, they say, should be left alone.

But this is more idealistic than realistic, because there is very little left on earth that has not been tampered with by humans.

In fact, a good part of real wildlife management consists of trying to balance the needs of humans and animals while correcting past excesses and errors.

Recently, the Agriculture Ministry and the Nature Reserves Authority decided to reduce high concentrations of jackals, wolves and foxes by selective shooting.

One reason for reducing packs of wolves and jackals was the toll they take on young livestock. Another, but less valid, argument in favor of the policy was rabies control. Unfortunately, unlike European countries which have shown superb results by feeding wild predators with bait containing an oral rabies vaccine, Israel still relies on the gun and the poison pill.

But in reducing a population of predators one must be very careful. Just how many are enough? The farmers say as few as possible. The nature enthusiasts say as many as possible.

If there are too many predators, not only farm animals fall prey to them but also gazelles, partridges

and other small animals and birds. Reduce the predator population too much, as was done in the '60s, and you get a population explosion of hares, partridges and other birds and animals that cause more agricultural damage than the predators do.

When gazelles were allowed to multiply freely, massive overpopulation in the Ramot Issachar area led to severe damage to orchards and vegetable gardens, as well as competition for pasture with the cattle there. In the end, the gazelles served as a focal point for a massive outbreak of hoof-and-mouth disease that almost wiped them out while destroying herds of cattle as well.

Wildlife management must be handled carefully, by people who serve no vested human or animal interest, and who have the knowledge and skill to protect both humans and animals. Otherwise, errors of the past will be repeated.

Aces won with 6 spades

BRIDGE

MATTHEW GRANOVETTER

North-South vulnerable
South dealer

North
♠ 74
♥ 6
♦ AJ108
♣ QJ7643

West
♠ Q10853
♥ AJ54
♦ 5
♣ K102

East
♠ AKJ962
♥ K73
♦ KQ3
♣ 8

South
♠ Q10982
♥ 97642
♦ A95

South West North East
Lauria Hamman Mosca Wolff
pass 1♠ pass 4NT
pass 5♦ pass 5♣
(all pass)

South West North East
Sontag Garozzo Weichsel Belladonna
pass 1♠ pass 2NT
pass 3♣ pass 4NT
pass 5♦ pass 4NT?

avoid going down. Luckily, both aces were right for me and I chalked up plus-450 rather swiftly.

The auction at the other table began. "Belladonna's 2NT showed a spade raise with a singleton somewhere in the hand. Garozzo could have asked where the singleton was with three clubs, but he was beginning to regret opening the hand, so he tried to discourage Belladonna by bidding three spades.

"It was speculated later that Garozzo's decision not to relay with three clubs was confusing to Belladonna, who thought the three-spade bid was a trump asking bid. His 4NT bid, therefore, was intended to show two top honors in trumps with extra length. Garozzo's five-diamond bid was a response to Blackwood, showing one ace.

"At the point that Belladonna bid 4NT, I thought... 'There's no way they're bidding slam when they find out they're off two aces. ... Suddenly, there was a strange feeling in the pit of my stomach. Belladonna was taking much too long to sign off in five spades... I glanced down for a second. Just then I heard Moose [the Aces coach] shout, 'He bid it! He bid it!'

"I looked back at the screen and I could hardly believe my eyes. There, big as life, was that wonderful, beloved SIX-SPADE bid right there for everyone to see.

"Just moments before, the room had been full of people rockin' and rollin' and ready for the coronation of the Italians as world champions. Now there was silence, except for Susie [Hamman's girlfriend], her kids, and my son, Chris, risking life and limb by cheering their hearts out up in the front.

"Back in the arena, Weichsel led the queen of clubs and Sonch grabbed the ace. He returned the ten of hearts, momentarily raising my anxiety level. I could see, however, that no matter what Garozzo did, he couldn't shake the diamond loser in his hand. Down one. Plus 50 for the Aces, who had gone from minus-8 IMPs to plus-3 with one hand to go. Could we get this one right? Could we shake that old Italian magic?

Hamman did, defeating the Italians by 5 IMPs.

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Many elderly people have been flooded out by the recent rains; others are suffering because of inadequate heating. This week the Forsake Me Not Fund gave senior citizens 35 room heaters and 35 wool blankets. But many more old folks are waiting for help.

Our third worry is helping new immigrants who turn to the Welcome Home Fund for aid.

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and Sarah who is six years old — Sheldon Waxman, San Francisco, CA.
\$36 In celebration of Ahuva Buchbinder's first Hanukka and first birthday — Barbara and Harry Mahan, Wantagh, NY. In memory of parents, My and Phyllis, Fawcett Park, Garden Hills, NY. Universal Books, Inc., Los Angeles. Sigmar and Rosetta Seif, Patterson, NJ.
\$24 For all my relations — Rob Pliskin, Akron, OH.

\$18 Nemi Granat, Skokie, IL. Anon., New York, NY. Avrum and Lila Weinzwieg, Skokie, IL. In memory of our grandmother, Dora Kaplan — Andrew, Jennifer and Joshua Freeman, Baltimore, MD. Sylvia Rothstein, New York, NY. Milford Peipick, Brooklyn, NY.

\$15 In honor of Dad's 83rd birthday — Elaine Henig, Aldan, PA.
\$10 In memory of Buccazz, Anon., Manchester, CT. Douglas and Teresa Herbert, Euclid, OH.

Can. \$50 In honor of our grandchildren — Charles and Simma Shaul, Toronto, Canada.
Can. \$45 Samuel and Etelka Reisz, Etobicoke, Canada.
Can. \$36 Phil Bell, Montreal, Canada.

\$200 Mrs. M. Stens, Manchester, England.
\$50 The Jewish Christian Community, Halstead, England.

Aust. \$216 Heartiest mazel tov and best wishes to our parents on their 52nd wedding anniversary, may they be blessed with many more years of health and happiness — love, Fred, Ricki, Harry, Michael, Daniel, Eli, Shoshana and Naomi Mainzer, Sydney, Australia.

Aust. \$134 Fred Mainzer, Sydney, Australia.
Progress Totals
NIS 41,175.60
\$12,135
Can. \$496
Aust. \$350
Sw. Kr. 140
Sw. Fr. 370
DPL 300
Aust. Sch. 1,000
Fr. Fr. 200
D. Kr. 300
£705

WELCOME HOME FUND
NIS 500 Anon., J'm.
NIS 200 In loving memory of our parents, Pierre and Minnie Kigelman — Felise and Malcolm.
NIS 180 The honor is in the giving — Michael and Jean Kavhazi, Ramat Gan.
NIS 100 In memory of my husband, Arie — Betty Efroni, Haifa.
NIS 72 Harry and Sharon Hirsch, Efrat.
NIS 50 Audrey and Harvey Scher, J'm.
NIS 36 In memory of Shmuel (Sammy) Silverman — Caspi, Kfar Menahem — Duhin, Migdal Ha'emek.
NIS 30 Avraham and Sonia Pach, J'm.
NIS 18 Anon., Giot Shomron.
NIS Chavurah Tzedakah, Norwalk, CT.
NIS 75 In honor of children Jonathan and Elizabeth Reiner, Nvack, NY and London, England — Irving and Elinor Reiner, Boca Raton, FL.
NIS 36 In loving memory of my beloved parents, Martin and Naomi Gould — Kip and Geri Gould Guss, Port Angeles, WA. Eleanor Sue Kanter, Portsmouth, VA. In memory of parents, Morris and Matilda Panzer and Nathan and Chana Joseph — Saul and Edith Joseph, Beaver, PA.
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Lubavitch's 'Menora Heights' inflames old argument

WITH his black hat barely visible against the night sky and a blowtorch in his hand, Rabbi Shmuel Butman offers greetings from "Menora Heights."

At the peak of rush hour in midtown Manhattan each day this week, he stands in the bucket of a public-utility truck that was brought in from the Bronx to hoist the rabbi from the Lubavitch Youth Organization more than three stories to light what he calls "the world's largest menorah."

It stands at the southeast corner of New York's Central Park in a public square at the intersection of 59th Street and Fifth Avenue.

Its backdrop is a statue of William Tecumseh Sherman, a Union general during the US Civil War whose 1864 march through Georgia torched Atlanta.

Butman uses a small flame to light the kerosene oil in the glass chimneys of the menorah, a two-ton steel structure designed by

Yaacov Agam that stands nearly 11 meters tall.

The menorah couldn't be bigger. Butman announces from the bucket, because of the halachic limit of 20 cubits.

There's another halachic issue, he says: This public menorah does not fulfill the mitzva of Hanukka, so Butman tells people to go home and light their own menorahs.

The schedule for today's performance, in which Butman stars, demands precision timing and a "great miracle" for the parting of the sea of midtown traffic: Light the Central Park menorah at 3:34 p.m. Rush to the heliport on the East River at 3:41.

Board the waiting helicopter at 3:45. At 3:55, land in Brooklyn, where there is the "world's second-largest menorah."

Shabbat begins at 4:11 p.m.

THE USE of the helicopter, Butman says, "teaches our children how modern technology can be

Not all US Jews are happy about public candle-lighting, Marilyn Henry reports from New York

utilized for the observance of our tradition.

How that tradition is observed raises a ruckus each year, as more than 200 menorahs are erected on public property across the US.

The US courts have banned religious displays in government buildings, but parks may be another matter. There is no consistent law about where a display can be erected.

The Lubavitch position generally has been to display the menorah wherever the law allows.

Many Jewish organizations turn thumbs down at any display. Among them is the Anti-Defamation League, which opposes all religious symbols on public property, saying this not only implies a

government endorsement of religion, but makes people squirm.

"When you see a religious symbol and it's not your symbol, the message is: You're not equal, not welcome, not wanted," said Steven Freeman, director of legal affairs at the ADL, which contends that there are "sufficient private locations" for religious displays.

Nor is there a universally accepted sense of what is a permissible display, or what is a religious symbol.

"One of the ironies in terms of Lubavitch is that they once tried to argue that the menorah was not a religious symbol - it was a symbol of freedom," said an official at an American Jewish organization, who asked not to be named. "The

argument gets complicated."

Trying to clear up the confusion, US courts have allowed wider latitude to Christmas trees and Santa Claus displays, saying they have no religious significance because there are no prayers said over them.

Although they may have been drowned out by the taxis honking on Fifth Avenue, prayers were in the air at Central Park as Butman lit the candles this week.

And for all the other secular intrusions - this was, after all, Manhattan - this was a traditional Lubavitch event.

Butman belted out a Hanukka standard after enthusiastically inviting the men to sing and women to clap.



Says Rabbi Shmuel Butman: 'Hanukka and moshiah stand for the same idea.'

And there was, again, talk of the messiah, at this first public celebration since the death last

summer of the Lubavitcher rebbe, Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson, whom many in Crown Heights continue to believe is the long-awaited deliverer.

The menorah has an additional message this year, according to Butman.

"It relays to the world in a tangible way that Lubavitch continues to be dedicated to the rebbe's teachings and particularly the publicizing of the rebbe's prophecy of four years ago that 'the time of redemption has arrived and moshiah is on his way,'" he said.

"Hanukka and moshiah stand for the same idea," Butman said from the bucket. "They are illuminating the darkness."

Before the sun sets today, Butman will be heading another of the rebbe's ideas.

Schneerson once spoke about the helicopter at one of his Hanukka gatherings, saying, "What should we use helicopters for, to make war?"

Proud political parents see their sons tipped for world fame

GRAPEVINE

GREER FAY CASHMAN

PROUD parents this week were former cabinet minister Yosef Burg and former MK Geula Cohen, whose sons - Avraham Burg, Labor, and Tzahi Hanegbi, Likud - were listed in Time Magazine's global roster of 100 young leaders for the new millennium.

In an Educational TV interview, the impetuous Cohen, who represented the now-defunct Tebiya Party, confessed that she had hoped her son would never be Speaker of the Knesset while she was a member. She had dreaded the thought of her son - in the middle of one of her impassioned outbursts - ordering her, "Mother, outside!"

MEANWHILE, it looks as if Burg Jr. may have to wait until the year 2000 for a major career breakthrough.

Though he was placed immediately after Foreign Minister Shimon Peres in the Labor primaries, his identification with the Peres camp has kept him out of the cabinet. If Yitzhak Rabin wins another term in 1996, Burg's political advancement will again be thwarted.

Burg's name resurfaced recently as a possible candidate for the Jewish Agency chairmanship. But here, too, Rabin may block his path. Another name mentioned in the same context by American Jewish leaders is that of Foreign Ministry director-general Uri Saviv.

But since Saviv is even more of a Peres man than Burg, Rabin is hardly likely to support his nomination.

RABIN WAS not the only prominent Israeli to visit Washington last week. Another was former president Chaim Herzog, there to attend a meeting of members of the international advisory board of Hollinger Inc., which owns The Jerusalem Post in addition to hundreds of other newspapers and periodicals throughout the world.

Since board members were asked to lecture on their own areas of expertise or on what was going on in their parts of the world, Herzog reviewed Middle East developments.

Other speakers included Paul Volcker, former head of the Federal Reserve Bank, and Dwayne Andreas, a central figure in the US economy, both of whom spoke about international economy.

Robert Strauss, former chairman of the Democratic Party, and political writers and commentators David Brinkley, Bill Buckley and George Will explored the US political scene; while views on political leadership and stability today were presented by former secretary of state Henry Kissinger, Britain's former minister of foreign affairs Lord Carrington, former National Security Council head Zbigniew Brzezinski, Italy's Giovanni Agnelli of Fiat, and German political commentator Josef Joffe. Other speakers included former US assistant secretary of defense Richard Pearle, US Secre-



MK Tzahi Hanegbi made it onto the 'Time' list of top young leaders. (J. Fishman)



Rivka Weingarten received a Worthy of Jerusalem award for founding a museum in the Old City. (A. Teitelbaum)



Attorney Amnon Zichroni is making waves as the new legal advisor to the PA.

tary of the Treasury Lloyd Bentsen, and Senate Majority Leader Robert Dole. Members of the board expressed interest in having Rabin address them as well, but his schedule was too crowded to include the mostly old boys from the corridors of power.

A BRITISH army officer during

World War II, Herzog has also been invited to the 50th anniversary of the liberation of the Dutch town of Enschede, on the eastern banks of the Rhine. Herzog has always maintained that Enschede was liberated because a group he was leading in the Guards Armored Division took a wrong turn. With their sudden entry into the town, the Dutch underground came into the open and German soldiers began to surrender.

A CONTROVERSIAL figure in his own right and by virtue of the clients he represents, attorney Amnon Zichroni is again causing an uproar. This time it's because he's become the legal adviser to the Palestinian Authority for a reported annual retainer of \$250,000. He will also represent the PA in its legal dealings with Israeli authorities, institutions and business enterprises.

Zichroni's relationship with the PA does not sit well with Likud faction head Moshe Katsav, who is preparing a bill that would stop Israelis from becoming political or defense advisers to any foreign power or agent without government permission.

DURING HIS year as visiting professor of international affairs at the George Washington University in Washington, DC, Israel's senior statesman Abba Eban and his wife Suzy entertained considerably less than was their custom in Israel. Now back home in Herzliya, they are again in the swing of things and last week honored two of their friends from London - Henry Gestetner and Vivien Clode-Duffield.

Both are generous supporters of causes linked with the Ebans: the Israel Cancer Association of which Suzy Eban is the dynamic president; and the Abba Eban center for Israeli Diplomacy, built around the archives which he donated to the Hebrew University of Jerusalem two years ago.

Dinner guests included Egyptian Ambassador Mohammed Bassiouny and his wife Nagwa, British Ambassador Andrew Burns and his wife Sarah, former defense minister Moshe Arens, and Ori Orr, chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, whose predecessors in office were Eban and Arens. The guest list has not yet been compiled for Eban's 80th birthday which is exactly two months from today.

A CHANCE visit to an immigrant absorption center in 1992 turned retired Levi Strauss salesman Harry Riback into a tireless advocate for Ethiopian immigrants. Riback, a Florida resident, has wide connections in the Jewish communities of New Jersey and New York where he has organized production and despatch of rag dolls for Ethiopian immigrant children, as well as the purchase and reconditioning of used sewing machines to enable their immigrant women to learn a trade and become economically independent.

This time he also brought seeds for collard greens, a nutrient-rich vegetable popular among African Americans. Ethiopian immigrants immediately identified the seeds by their Amharic name, *gomen*, and told Riback the vegetable was



Director of the Inter-religious Coordinating Council Ron Kronish was the only Israeli to attend a USA workshop on Jewish-Christian relations.

One of the things they missed here. He hopes a kibbutz or moshav in

the Ramle area, where many Ethiopian immigrants live, will make land available for *gomen* crops.

REPRESENTATIVES of nearly every faith practised here turned up at the reception to introduce Albert Lincoln, recently appointed secretary-general of the Baha'i International Community. There are no Israeli members of Baha'i, according to Dennis Jenkins, the BIC's Jerusalem representative. The reason for this is that Baha'i founder Mirza Hussain Ali more than a century ago recognized the land of Israel as the Jewish homeland and decreed that Baha'i followers have no right to settle here and teach their faith to outsiders. There are some 600 Baha'i volunteers from 58 countries working at the Baha'i center in Haifa.

THOUGH BORN in New York, raised in Miami, and a frequent speaker in cities across America, Ron Kronish, director of the Inter-religious Coordinating Council in Israel, had to make aliya before he

got to Tulsa, Oklahoma. Kronish, who has been here for 15 years, was the sole Israeli among more than 300 participants in the 14th national workshop on Jewish-Christian Relations, held in Tulsa last month.

ON LOAN from the Foreign Ministry, Gabi Padon, after serving as political adviser to Teddy Kollek for five years and to Ehud Olmert for one year, is returning to his old stomping ground to take up his appointment as the Foreign Minister's adviser on interreligious affairs. But Padon is waiting for a successor to be named to his post in the mayor's office.

FEMALE REPRESENTATION in this week's Worthy of Jerusalem awards, was considerably more impressive than it is in the Knesset or in the boards of directors of government-owned companies. Out of 12 honorees, four were women. They were Rachel Dvorkin, in recognition of her contributions to education and so-

cial integration; Rivka Weingarten, who founded a historical museum in the Old City; Nehama Meynhas, for her achievements in education and social welfare; and former Herut MK Esther Raziel Naor, whose whole life is an example of patriotism.

HISTORY LOOKING to be recorded. Few people are aware that the Fins saved hundreds of Russian Jews from extermination during World War II. Jerusalemite Shimon Yantovsky, and a handful of other survivors who owe their lives to the refusal by the Fins to hand over Jewish prisoners to their German allies, this year visited the site of the camp where they had been incarcerated. The publicity generated by their visit prompted Finnish Television to make a special documentary on the subject. As an expression of gratitude to their Finnish saviors, Yantovsky and other survivors have written memoirs of their prison days. But they have been unable to find a publisher.

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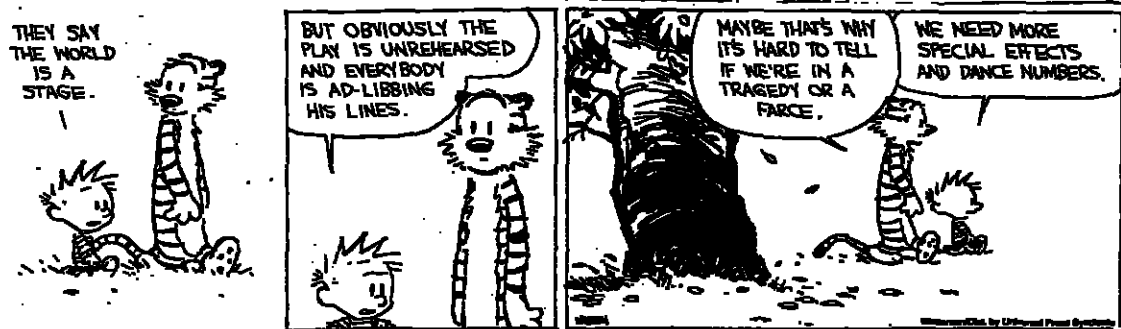
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